LITTLE WOMEN

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Summary By Ahmed Hassan Saad

ONE

THE FOUR SISTERS

A. It was near Christmase time . Four girls sat by a warm fire. They looked through the window at the now fa lling outside.

" Chfistmas ," won't be christmas without any presents said Jo.

" "Being poor makes one so unhappy" said Meg , looking down at her old dress.

" I don't think it's fair that some girls should have pretty things and we should not," said Any, "We've got father and mother..." begandBeth. "Wo haven't got father , and we shan't have him for a long time," anwered JO.

These four sisters, who did not like being poor, lived in the town of concord in the United states of America.

At this time there was a war between the North and bhe South, and their father Was away with the Arry helping to take ca re of the sick and wounded, He had once been rich but had lost most of his money in trying to help a friend.

B., Meg- the eldest, could remember when there was plenty of money for everything that was needed. She was now sixteen years old and very pretty, with light brown hair, large eyes small hands and feet. Her fifteen- year- old sister, Jo,,

was tall, thin a nd not very graceful. Jo ha d grey eyes and very lovely red-brown hair. She always wished she was a boy so she did not ca re how she looked. She loved to run a nd climb trees, and do things which boys like doing.

Beth was thirteen years old, bright-eyed, with a face like a rose. She was gentle and thoughtful, but was afrad of talking to people whom she did not know. In this she was very unlike her youngest sister, Amy, Amy was only twelve years old: she thought that she was a n important person and was very proud of her golden hair, her white skin and blue eyes. She knew that her nose was rather fla t; but she hoped to grow up to be beautiful and to marry a rich husband.

C. The girls mother, Mrs. March, was giving allher time to working for the soldiers, making them worm clothes, and the girls ha d given up their Christma s presents for the soldiers. That was whyJo said"Christmas won't be Christmas without a any presents."

"Mother will be coming soon," said Beth. she put her m other's shoes to warm in front of the fire;then Jo held them up close to it so as to warm them quickly.

"These shoes are quite worn ou," she said "Mother must have new ones."

" I ha ve got a sollar, I thought that I would buy some for her with that," said Beth."No; I shall,"cried Amy.

Jo stood up: "Father ca led me the man of the family a nd told m e to take s pecial care of mother. So I will buy the shoes."

"Let us each get her something for Christmas,"said B eth, "and not get a nything for ourselves."

Uo began to march up a nd down with her ha nds behind her back, like a man. "We will let her think that we aregetting things for ourselves, and then surprise her, " she said.

D. " I was so busy tha t I could not come home to dinner," sa id Mrs. March as she came in. she took off her wet clothes a nd sa t down by the fire. Meg and Jo set ready the tabà for their evening meal. Beth was busy in the kitchen. Amy sat with her hands by her s ide and gave orders to everyone but did nothing herself .

when they were all sitting round the fire. Mrs. March said, "I have something nice for you girls a letter." " A letter from Father " cried Jo. "how I wish I could be w soldier and go to help in the war." " I don't," said Amy. " I should think it would be very unpleasant." When is hecoming home?asked Beth. " Not for a very long time unless he is ill," replied their mother." Now come and hear wha t your father writes to you." It was a long letter, a nd the last pa rt of it wa s written for the girls."Give them my love," Mr. March worte to his wife. " Tell them how much I think of them a nd pray for them. I t willbe a whole year before I shall see them; tell them not to wa ste the time, but to work had.

I know that they willbe loving children to you and will do their duty, I hope that ea ch one will try to fight against her own weakness, so that when I come back I ma y be proud of my little women."

TWO

CHRISTMA S DAY

A. It was Christmas morning. The girls dressed quickly and

went down to the sitting- rom. There they met hannah, theold servant who ha d lived with the family since Meg was born.

Hannah was loved by them all, more as a friend than a servant. " Where is Mother" asked Meg. "Someone came to cal her to help a family who have no food, " sa id Hannah.

" Oh well," said Meg. "you bring our breakfast and she will soon be back."

By the time Hanna h had finished cooking, the girls were very hungry. Just at that minute their mother ca me in.

"Happy Christmas,"they said. "Happy Christmas, my daughters," said Mrs. March"."Before we sit down I want to tell you that I jave kist bee; tp a jpise wjere tjere are sow children.

Their mother-Mrs. Hummel--has no fire to keep them warn a nd no food to give them. Ha nnah and I will take them some wood. Will you come with us and take them your breakfa sts?

They vere all silent for a few minutes. Then Jo sa id /"hat a good thing we hadn't begun to eat ." "May i go and help ca rry the things to the poor little children?asked Beth eagerly. "I shall ta ke the hot ca kes." said Amy. bravely giving up the food which she most likesd.

Meg was slready putting the bre ad and butter into a ba sket. " I thought that you would do it," said Mrs.Ma rbh. sm iling. "You shall a ll go and help le, and when we come back we will have bread and milk for breakfast.

We shall eat more at dinner- time so there will be no re al loss."

B. In the evening they acted a play which Jo had written and a few friends came in to see it.

The play went well: the actors made a great dea l of

noise, a nd their frien ds who were listening shouted a nd laughed. Just as it was ending Hannah cam e into the room and said, "Mrs. March wants you all to come down and eat omething.

This was not expected, even by the actors: and when they looked at one another wit h delighred surprise. There wereakes of allsorts: there was fruit, and sweets. It was a wonderful supper. In the middle of the table there was a pot of beautiful flowers. "Where did it come from?" they a ll wated to know. Did the fairies bring it? . a sked Amy.

"Father Christmas brought it, " said Beth.

"Mother did it," said Meg.

Aunt March felt good for once , and sent us these things," said Jo. "You a re all wrong. Old Mr. La urence in the big house next door sent it," replied Mrs. March.

"The Laurence boy's grandfather?" said Mag. "whey did he do that? We don't know him."

"Hannah told one of his servantsthat you took your breakfast to the poor children. He is rather a strange old gentleman, but that pleased him. He knew my father many years a go, and this afternoon he senh me a friendly note: I have heard wha t your he sent m e a friendly noteNi have heard what your children did this morning. he wrote, and I amsending a little Chrisas present to them. So you have this nice meal to make up for a breakfast of bread and milk."

" I suppose it was his grandson who told him to do it said Jo. "I think hisgrandson would lika to get to know us, a nd I am sure that I should like to know him."

" I like his monners," said Mrs. March, "and I do not mind your knowing him when a proper chance comes. He brought the flowers

the flowers himself; he looked very sad when he wentaway hearing your fun and not having any of his own."

"We will have another play some time," said Jo. "Perhps he will help act in it. How good that would be"

THREE

MEG AND JO

The week after Christmas was a free time for the four sisters, especially for Meg and Jo, who had each found some work to do when their father lost his money. Meg went ever day to teach Mrs. King's four little girls. She did not like this work, but she did it as weal as she could beca use she wished to help her fa mily. Jo spent each day with her father's rich a unt-- a difficult old lady who lived in a large house ne arby. Jo made herself useful by doing any of the thingsher a unt wanted-- looking after her dog a nd her bird, helping to clean things and reading to her aunt in the afternoon.

She did not like the books she read to her aunt, buts she was sometimes a ble to go and find other books which she liked.

Beth was at home a ll the time, helping Hannah. Before her father went away sje dod jer messp;s wotj jo: bit npwshe dod tje'bu jersemf½ fs ½ â rcj jad troed tp se: her to school but she was too frightened to lea rn among a lot of other children. She loved music, a nd she preyed for a new piano instead of the oldone in which many of the notes did not sound aAmy played a little, but she was proudest of her drawingand she wanted to paint famous pictures when she grew up.

One day, Meg went over the house looling for Jo she found her in this little room at the top of the house which was only

used for storing things not wanted. Here Jow as lying on n old bed,reading wa nted . Here Jo was lying on an old bed, readinng and eating apples, while a friendly mouse ca me to sit beside her. The mouse ra n into his hole when Meg caman with a letter."Such fun:" s ssaid. "sallie Ga rdiner's mother ha s asked us to a little dance tomorrow, and Mothre says that we may fo. Now, what shall we wear:" .

"Wha t's the use of asking that, when you know that we have only one dresseach that we can wear:" said Jo.

FOUR
THE LA URENCE BOY

W. On the next afternoon the sisters began to get ready for the dance, and at last, with the help of Beth and Amy , they were ready.

As soon a s they arrived, Meg began to enjoy herself.

Her friend Sallie looked after her, and severa l young men asked her to dance, Meg dancedbeautifully, even though her pretty shoes hurt her, She w s proud of her small fet, and sometimesshevought shoes that were nou big enough.

Jo sat quietly looking across at some boys who were l laughing a nd ta lking about ska ting: she lovedska ting. Jo genera lly liked ta lking to boys better than to girls but she knewtha t she must not go over to join them. Whena young ma n ca me towards her to ask her to dance , Jo went behind the door to escape. To her surprise she found a boy in the passage.

"I didn't expect to find a nyone herr, she said, per--paring to go out again a s quickly as she ca me in .

But the boy laughed and said pleasantly, "Don't mind me stay if you like." "Shan't I trouble you?" "Not a bit: I only came out here because I don't know many people, and I felt rather strange at first you know."

"So did I, Don't go a way, please, unless you 'd reather"

The bou sat down again. He sat silent, looking at his shoes. At last. trying to be pleasant and easy, Jo said, " I think I have seen you before, you live near us, don't you ? "Next door, and he looked up and laughed. Jo laughed too,and said, "We did have such a good time with your nice Christm as present." "My grandfather sent it."

"But you told him to, didn't you , Mr. L aurence"

"Wha t m a kes you think that, Miss Ma rch?"

" I'm not Miss March; I 'm only Jo."

"And I"m not Mr. Laurence ; I'm only La urie."

"Laurie Laurence-- what a strange name"

" My first name is Theodore, but I don'tlike it, for the fellows called me Dora so I made them say Laurie instead."

" I hate my name too-- Josephine. and I wish everyone would call me Jo, Howdid you make the boys stop calling you Dora ?"

" I hit them. " " I can't hit Aunt March, so I suppose I shall have to bear it, " said jo.

They watched the dancing for a faw minutes, and then Laurie said:

"Don't you like dancing. Miss Jo:" --" Ilike it well enough, if there is plenty of room. In a pla ce like this I'm sureto step on people's feet, or do something wrong, so i kee p out of it. Don't you dance:"

"Som etimes, but I've been away so long-- at school in Italy and Switzerland and in Paris -- that I don't know howthings are done here?" Jo decided that she liked Laurie very much.She

wondered how old he was, but did not like to ask.

"I suppose you willbe going to clllege soon." she said. "I often see you working a t your books."

"Not for a year or two." he replied. " I shall not go before I'm seventeen."

"Aren't you sixteen yet?" asked Jo, looking at the ta ll lad whom she thought must be seventeen already.

" Sixteen next month." And then, as the music began again , he said suddenly. "This is a lovely dance, won't you dance,y won't you have it with me?" me "I can't I told Meg I wouldn't becouse--" There Jo stopped for a minute, but she decided to go on. "You see, the back of my dress is burnt and, although I put a piece in, it doesn't look very well. Meg told me to keep still, so that no one would see it. You ma y laugh if you want to, it is funny, I know."

But Laurie didn't la ugh. He said very gently, "Never mind tha t: there is a long hall outside there, where we c n dance with no one to see us. Please come. "

B. How they enjoyed that dance together, when the music sto--pped, they sat down to get cool. They were just beginning to have a pleasant t a lk when som eone cam e to tell Jo that Meg wished to see her. She had hurt her for and was resting in a side room. Jo was sorry to leave Laurie, but she went at once.

She found Meg rest ing. With her foot on a chair, "I've hurt m y foot, " she said. " It turned over I suppose becau se these shoes are too small. It hurts so much that I won't be able to wqlk hom e." " I knew you'd hurt your feet with those silly little shoes, said Jo. " We will have to get a ca rriaa ge.

You can't stay here all night. "

"A carriage would cost a lot of money; and I don't think we could get one. It is a long way from here to the town and we have no one to send. " "I'll go." said Jo.

No: No? It's late a nd very dark." said Meg. "You can't go.2"

"I'll a sk Laurie, and he will go." cried Jo. "No: Don't ask anyone. I can't da nce a ny more, but Hannah will soon come . Tell me as soon as you see her. They are going in now. you go and have something to eat and bring me some coffe."

Jo got the coffee but as she turned to ca rry it back she poured it down the front of her dress. "Oh? Oh? Oh?" she cried. "Now I've spoilt my dress?" "Can I help you?" said a friendly voice. It was Laurie. He was carrying cakes in one hand and a cup of coffeein the other. "I was trying to get something for Meg. " .

"And I wa s looking for someone to five this to." Jo led him to Meg. Laurie brought more coffee and cakes for Jo and they sat down together. They were so happy that Meg forgot about her foot. When Hannah cam e she stood up quickly, but she soon sat down again in great pa in. Laurie saw at once that she could not walk home.

"My grandfather's carriage has just come." he said. "Let me ta ke you home in it." "But are you going so early?" "Yes , I do, I always go early. Please let me take you all home."

Soon they were all on their way home in Mr.Laurence's large ca rriage. They said"good night " to Laurie with many tha nks.a and went in quietly, hoping not to wake their young sisters. But soon two little voicescried out-- " Tell us about the dance? Tell us about the dance?" when the story had been told and the littlee girls were asleep again, Jo bathed Meg's foot and brushed her hair.

"I rea lly feel like a fine young lady." said Meg.

"I came horne from the party in a carriage, and now I have a servant to brush my hair." " I don't believe that fine young ladies enjoy them.selves a bit more than we do." said Jo. Perhaps Jo was right?

FIVE

VISIT TO LAURIE

A. One afternoon Jo came back early from Aunt March because it had been snowing heavily. She did not feel like sitting by the fire, so she took a brush and began to make a m ake a path through the snow so that Beth could walk through the garden. She watched old Mr. Laurence drâve away from the house next door, and then, as she was brushing away the snow near the wqll which separatdd the two houses, she saw an unhappy- looking Laurie through one of the windows. " Poor Laurie, " thought Jo, "he's a lone, he needs a lot of friends to make him happy." She threw up a handful of snow against the window, and Laurie turned to see her. At once his face changed. He lauehed opened the window and called to her.

She shook her brush at him as she called out, "Are you ill Laurie opened the window and said in a thick voice, "I've hada room for a week but I'm betternow." "What do you find to do?.

"Nothing? Grandfather reqds to me, but I don't like the books he reads." "Why don't you get someone to come up?""I don't know anyone. Won't you com e?" "I will if Mother will let me. I'llogo and ask herL Shut that window, and wait till I come." Jo came back in a few minutes, and was taken up to Laurie's room by a servant. "Mother sent you her love." she said when she entered Laurie's room: "and Meg sent you this cake for your tea" .

"How kind you all are." said Lqurie. "Shall I read to you? asked Jo."No I woukd much rather you talked. Tell me about your

sisters. Beth is the one who stays at home, isn't she, and Meg is the pretty one a nd Amy is the littlegirl?" "How did youknow?" Jo asked. "Well," said Laurie, "I often hear you calling each other, and you always seem to be having such fun? I know that it is not right to look throughpeople's windows; but sometimes it is likel looking at a picture. I see you all in the firelight , sitting round the table with your mother . I haven't any mother, you Know."

He looked so sad that Jo cried."You ma y look as much as you like. But why don't you come and see us? Wouldn't your grandfather a llow you?" " Hallow you""He would if your mother asked me. Helives very much with his books. My t eacher, Mr. Brooke, doesn't live here here in the house, so I haven't a nyone to tgo out with, and I stay at home most of the time. ""That's ba d for you." said Jo "You ought to go gout more."

"Do you like your school?" asked Laurie. "I don't go to school. I go to look after my difficult old aunt. Jo talked about her anut's fat little dog and the bird, and the books which she had to read to read to her a unt; and she made Laurie laugh till the tears ran down his face.

B. Then they began talking of books. "If you like them so luch" said Laurie, "go down and see ours. Grandfather is our, so you mneedn't be afraid." "I'm not afraid of anything. "I don't belive you a re," said Laurie. He was afraid sometimes; he was reather afraid of his solemn old grandfather. He took Jo down to a large room filled with books a nd pictures. Jo looked round the room: "What a lot of books" she said. Just atthat moment the bell rang and one of the servants came in and said, "The doctor has come to seeLau rie." "Do you mind if I leave you for a few minutes:? he said. "Of course not. I'm so happy with all these things to look a t."

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course he's not as good-looking as my grand. father, but I like

Jo stood for some time before a fine picture of old Mr. L. a nd when the door opened she said to Laurie, "I'm sure I shouldn't be aftraid of him. He has kind eyes. even if his mouth is hard.

Of course he's not as good- looking as my grand-father, but like him".

"Thank you, madam," said a deep voice, and Jo turned to find-- not Lauric-- but old Mr.Laurence himself. For a minute she thoughe she thought she must run away, but , as she looked at the old man she saw that he was stmiling. "So you8re not afraid of me, " sad

"Not much, sir." "And I am not so ggod- looking as your mothers fa ther?" "Not quite, sir." "But you like me?. "Yes I do sir"sad Jo. That answer pleaed the old gentleman. He la ughed, shook ha ndsw ith her and said: "You are brave, like your grandfather, my dea r. What ha ve you been doing to m y grandson?"Only trying to be good neighbours. he is all alone, and we girls would like to help him if we can, because we haven't forgotten your Chrismas persent."

How are the poor little children to whom you gave your brea- -kfast?. The Humm els? They are doing well, sir." Tell your mother I shall com e over to see her soon: and now let us go in to tea"

At this minute Laurie came running in. He was very surprisdd to see Jo and his grandfather taliing very surprised to see Jo and his grandfather taliing very surprised to see Jo and his grandfather talking together: and the old man was egually surprised, duringtea, to hear Laurie a nd Jo talking like two old friends.

"How happy he is"he thought. "she has done him good allready."

After tea, La urie took Jo over the large house, showing her all the lovely things in it. When they went back to old Mr. Laurence. Jo looked at the big piano. How she wished that Beth could see it "

"Do you play. Laurie?" said Jo. "Sometimes," he replied. "His music is not bad," said his grandfather "but I hope he will dowáll do well in more important thingg" Jo stood up to go . "Must yougo" he askd . "Yes sir; it's late." " Come a ga in," said Laurie. "Yes said Jo ,"if you promise fo come a nd see us when your cold is better. " "Indeed. I will," said Laureie.

SIX

BETH GETS HER WISH

A. After Jo's visit, a new life began for Laurie. Mrs. March was glad to see him whenever he wished to come to the house, and soon he and the four girls were the greatest friends. Lauric spent less time on his lessons, but old Mr. Laurence was pleased to see him ha ppy in the company of people of his own age. There were evening parties in the big house, and laurie and the girls arranged plays and out- of- door parties together.

Meg liked wandering over the large house. Jo liked to sit for hours in the big room reading, andAmy looked a t the pictures. Only Beth was too afraid to enter the house. She wanted to pla y the big piano, but she feared old Mr. Laurence too much to go n ear him. When Mr. Laurence discovered this, he tried to make it easy for Beth to com e. One day, when he wa s visiting Mrs. March and the four girls, he began to ta lk about music and musicians, until the m usic-loving Beth came nearer and nearer to his chair to li--sten. Then he went on to talk of laurie's music lessons.

"Laurie hasn't much tim e for his music now." he said, andthem as though the thought had just come to him, he went on , "I am glad of this, for I did not want him to spend so much time upon it; but the piano should be used, and I do wish that some of your girls would come and play on it sometimes. They needn't see anyone, and

pla y on it sometimes, They needn't see anyone. a nd they won't trouble me, for I shall be in my room at the other end ofthe house

As he got up to go. he said , "Of course, if they don't care to come" Of course, if they don't care to come--"

Here Beth put her hand into his and said, Ohsir, I do care-- very much." Are you the musical girl? "I'm Beth, and I do love muic. I'll come, ifyou're sure no one will hea r me."

"No one- my dear--come as often as you like."He held out his hand; and Beth, no longer afraid, put her small hand trustfullyin his, for she had no words to thank him for his kindness.

Early next morning, Beth watched old Mr. Laurence go out and then she set off for the big house .After twice turning ba ck in fear, she a t last went in by a side- door and made her way as the could to the room where the pia no was. La urie had left some easy but very pretty music for her, and she spent a delightful morning playing it onthe great piano. She forgot her fears. herself. and everything else except the pleasure which the music gave her.

At last Hannah came to tell her the time, and take her hometo dinner .

B. After that, Beth went to play on the piano every morning. she never m et anyone, and she never knew that old Mr. La urence often sat in his s tudy listening to her, and thinking of his dearly-lovedlittle granddaughter who died long ago. Beth was so happy and so thankful that she decided to make some shoes for old Mr. Laurence. With the help of her mother and sisters over the diff--icult parts. she soon finished them and s ent them to him. For two days there was no reply. Beth was afraid that the old gentle-em a n was not pleased with them. Then, one morning, when she returned from a walk, several joyful voices called out to her;

" Here's a letter for you Beth, Come quick, and read it"

As Beth hurried in , Jo cried out, Oh, Beth , look at what he has sent you" They were all pointing and saying, Look there, Look there" Beth did look, and trned white with delight, for there stood a small piano, with a letter lying upon it for Miss Elizabeth March." Beth epened and read it. It was a rather solemn letter, a s if written to someone grown-up:

Miss March.

Dear Madam,

I have never had any shoes which pleaed me so well as yours.

I should like to return your kindness, and so I am sending you the smallpiano which was once used by my granddaughler,

With many thanks and best washes,

I a m, Your frend,

Jam es Lourence.

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All the girls garthered round to see the beautiful pia no, while Beth sat down to try it. She found it pound it perfect.

"Now you'll have to go and tha nk him." sa id Jo--half in in fun, for she did not think that beth would be brave enough.

"I am going now." said Beth, "before I get afraid." Then, to the surprise of everyone, she walked out of the house, down the garden path, and in at the Laurence's door, before they caould believe what had happened. Old Mr. Laurence looked very surprised to see her. "I came to thank you , sir," she began, but she did not finish wha t she was saying, for he looked so friendly, and smiled so kindly at her, that she put both her arms round his neck and kissed him . The old genltleman was pleased by the trusting little girl, He took her on his knee, and Beth wassoon talkingto jo`as of sje jad l;pw: jo`amm her life. When she went home he walked

with her to her own gate, shook hands, and lifted his hat, to her own gate, shook hands, and lifted his hat, When the girls sawt this happen, Jo began to dance with joy, Amy nearly fell out of the window in her surprise, and Meg , "well, I do believe the world is com ing to an end. "

SEVEN

A QUARREL

A. It was Saturday afternoon. Amy was just getting better from a cold. She found her sisters dressing to go out, and asked them to tell her where they were going. "Little girls shouldn't ask questions," said Jo. This made Amy very angry. "Do tell me, Meg, she said. "I think you might take me too. I am always left alone, because Neth spends so much time with her piano."

" Ican't take you. You haven't been asked" Now Meg. said Jo don't tell her. Amy can't go. she mustn't be a baby and be angry about it." I know you are going with Laurie to see the Fairy Play. said Amy, and I SHALL go too. I've got a little money and I shall pay for myself." "Just listen, Amy," said Meg. "Mother doesn't wand you to go out so soon after your cold. You can go next week with Beth and Hannah."

"I shan't like that nearly as well as going with you and Laurie. Do take me, Meg? I'll be so good."

" Shall we take her, Jo:" asked Meg. " She could put on her warm clothes, and I don't believe that Mother would mind.

"No." replied Jo. "If she goes, I won't and Laurie won't like that." I will go " cried Amy. "You couldn't sit with us," said Jo, "because we could not get a nother seat just next to ours.

The seat would be somewhere else; but we coudn't let you sit alone, so you would have to sit alone. So you must not come."

Amy began to cry , and Meg tried to make her understand.

Then Laurie came. As the elder girls went away with him she called out, "You'll be sorry for this, Jo March."

This rather spoiled Jo's enjoyment of the play. She and Amy often had quarrels. Jo was always sorry that she had been angry after them. She Knew that she had a very quick temper and she tried not to give way to it.

B. When they returned. Jo esected to find that Amy had done something to hurt her, but she did not find out what it was until the next afternoon. A few days before this, Jo had finished writing some little stories in a book; and she menit to give the book to her father. Have you seen my little book? she asked the others.

No, said Meg and Beth , Jo looked at amy .

"You've got it,Amy?" "No , I haven't, said Amy , "I don't know where it is, and I don't care ."

"You know something about it. Tell me at once, or I'll make you," said Jo, shaking her. "You'll never see your silly book again," said Amy. "I burnt it."

What? My little book that I worked so hard over, to giveto father when he comes back: You couldn't burn my little book?"

Yes, I did-- I told you I'd make you pay for not thking me yesterday."

Jo shook Amy, shouting as she did so, "You bad, bad girl? I can never write it agqin, and I'll never forgive you."

"A bad- tempered person= a person who has a bad temper, often becomes angry. A quick- tomltepppered person quickly becomes angry.

Meg and Beth ran to save Amy , and Jo ran up to her little

too hurt to say much, and Amy felt that no one loved her.

room at the top of the top of the house and shut herself in to fight against her temper.

In the sitting- room Amy too was unhappy. "How could you do such a thing." said Meg.Beth and her mother were too hurt to say much, and Amy felt tha t no one loved her.

Jo came down at tea-time, still looking so angry that Amy was herdly brave enough to sy: "Please forgive m e, Jo. I'm very very so rry." "I shall never forgive you," replidd Jo, andtook no further notice of her for the rest of the evening.

When be- tim e came, Mrs. March said to Jo, "My dear, dont don't let the sun go down on your anger. Forgive each other. Help each other, and begin again tomorrow." The

"Jo felt like putting her haad down and crying but she knew that Amy wad lidtening,so she said, in a hard voice.

"It was a very bad thing to do, and I can never forgive her."

On the next afternoon, when Jo came back from a rather diff- -icult morning with A unt March, she still felt angry and unhappy.

"I'll ask Laurie to go ska2ting on the ice with me." she said to horsolf." Ho is so kind and friendly. He'll soon makde me feel better." Amy watched her go and said to Meg. "She promised to take me skating next time she went, and this t e last ice we shall have, but It's no good asking her when she is so angry."

"Well, Amy you were very unkind to burn her book, and it is hard forher to forgive you. But if you go a fter her now, you may find that Laurie has made her feel better. Tell her again that you are sorry, and perhaps she will be fronds."

"I'll try," said Amy,

C. She put on her warm coat and ran off as quickly as she could

It was not far to the river, a nd both Jo and Laurie were

ready before Amy reached them,Jo saw her coming and turned her back. Lurie did not see her. He was trying the ice a little fur--ther on . He called back to Jo: "Keep near the side, the ice isn't safe in the middle." Jo said to herself as she followed Laurie, "Did Amy hear that it isn't safe in the middle? Ought I to tell her-No.let her take care of herself" She decided to go on, but something held her.She turned round just in time to see Amy throw up her hands with a cry that made Jo(s heart stand still with fear as Amy fell through the thin ice into the water.

Laurie lay on the ice, and held out his stick to Amy. Toge--ther they got her out, unhurt, but very cold and wet.

They took off their coats and put them round Amy to keep her warm.We must make her run as fast as she can, before she takes cold?" said Laurie. They all ran home, and vey soon Amy was in a warm bed, with a fire in her room. Before long warm bed, with a fire in her room. Before long she was fast asleep.

Mrs. March and Jo went up to see her.

"Are you sure she is safe? asked Jo.

Quite safe. You and Laurie did the right thing. putting yuor coats on herand hurrying her back home."

"Oh Mother," said Jo, weeping. "if she had died it would have beeen because of my wicked temper. Iwas angry with her and did not tell her to keep near the side. I know that I shall do some-thing in a temper one day which will spoil my life. Oh, Mother, what shall I do? What shall I do?

"You must try not to be angry with other people. We all do things which make otherpeople angry. but I hold myself bck, I keep back the angry words and learn to understand and forgive. I have been learning that lesson for forty years."

repled her mother. Jo held her mother close, and together they watched Amy . She moved in her sleep, woke with that foollowed, the sisters were friends again and their quarrel forgotten.

EIGHT

A VISIT TO RICH PEOPLE

A. Annie Moffat met Meg at Mrs. Gardiner's party and liked her they became great friends.

In the spring Annie asked Meg and her friend. Sallie Gardi--ner, to stay at herhome for two weeks. Meg was teaching four l--ittle girls, but they were ill, so Meg was able to go .Jo andmy helped her to get her clothes ready for the visit.

"I think your old blue house-dress looks pretty now it has been made longer" said Beth. "Your grey dress will do very well for the smalll parties. and you will have your whit e dress fob the larger ones." said Jo.

"I think you look lovely in white." said Amy , touching the white dresswith loving fingers.

Meg was not entirely happy: herwhite dress had been was hed many times. and she knew that the Moffats were rich and had many clothes. "I wonder if I shall ever be able to buy the new dresses I really want." she said. " You once said that you would be happy if only you could go and stay with the Moffars, said Beth. "So I did. I am happy, and I will try not to think how much I want just one new dress." At last all the porpartions were finished, the simple clothes were put in a trevalling- case, and Meg setout on her journey. She found that the Moffats were indeed rich, and that their house was large and full of costly things. Both Mr. Moffat were fat and happy- looking. They were pleasure- loving

people, they loved money and what it could buy but they were kind, and they wished to make Meg's visit were kind. and they wished to make Meg's visit happy. Meg enjoyed the lazy, care- free life with plenty of time to arrange her hair, dress herself, and goout with others. In the daytime she was taken out in the carriage and in the evening they often went to see plays. Everyone seemed tto love pretty Meg, and she was very happy, when she saw all the nice things that the Moffats had, she wanted to be rich, and as sheloo--ked back at herown home, she thought how small and poor it was.

During the second week a small party had been arranged, at which Meg had expected to wear her simple grey dress, But she found that it would not do among the fine evening dresses of her frinds; so she wore the white dress which she had meant to keep for the bigger party on the next night, Even this looked very poor by the side of the other dresses, and she knew from their looks,t that the other girls thought so too.

B. When she was feeling very troubled about her dress, a servant brought in a large box and a letter To everyone's surprise, both were for Meg. When the bow was opened the girls saw the loveliest roses ."What fun", said Annie, "we didn't know you had a lover."

"The letter is from my mother, " said Meg, and the roses are from Laurie."

After reading her mother's letter, Meg felt happy again.

When the party began she danced and sang and was so happyt that she looked even prettier than usual. She was enjoying every minute until she happened to hear Mrs. Moffat talking to her dd daughter Belle. "Hwo old isyoung Laurence:" "About sixteen ors seventeen." He would make a good husband for one of the March

girls, " said Mrs. Moffat. He'll be quit e rich when his grandf-
-ather dies. I expect Mrs . March is making her plans, although
it is so early clearly tho girl doesn't think of it yet." "Poor
girl" replied Bello. She has only that on eold white dress, do
you think we might offer to lend her another: She's very proud.
But perhapsshe wouldn't mind." "We'llsee," said Mrs. Moffat."I
ask young Laurence to come to the party tomorrow." Meg was very
a ngry when she heard her mother splkon of like this. For the first
time she began to understand how other people might think of Lurie's
friendship with herself and her sisters, and she felt unhappy too
that these people should think like this about her old dress. She
hid her feelings , howerver, and no one knew what she had heard
C. The next morning Belle Moffat said to her, "Mother has asked
Mr. Laurence to the pabty tonight."
"He won't come," said Meg, laughting . "Why?"
He's too old, he's wover seventy." "Of course we mean the young
man." "There isn't a young man. Laurie is only a boy" But he's
nearly your age, said Bello. Oh no, said Meg . He's only about
fifteen, a nd I'm nearly seventeen." It's very nice of him to
send you flowers." "Yes, he often does--to all of us-- becouse
thereare so many in his house , nd we love them so .

Just then Mrs.Moffat came into the room and asked what the
girls were going to wear for the big party that night.
"I shall wearmy red silk." said sallie. What are you going to wear,
Meg?" she asked. Mu white one again, said Meg, although " gpt r
ratjer dirty last night."

"Why don't you send hom e for another?"

Because I haven't a nother,"said MeG.

"Only one dress? How strange said Sallie , but she did not finish because belle Moffat shook her head at Sallie, and said kindly,

"There is no need for Meg to have a lot of dresses, She is not really old enough to go to mayn parties yet . As it happens, Meg," s e went on, there is a blue dress of mine which is toosmall for me, and I should love you to wearit." "You a re very kind" said Meg, but I don' mind my old dress if you don't. I t doeswell enough for a littlee girl like me." Oh do wear it. Meg. and dollot me help you to get ready fo the party. You're so pretty; I should love to dress you without telling the others, and then show them what a real beaury you are. Please do , Meg" Meg did not like to say"No" to such a kind offer , and she wanted very much to seehow she would look dressed in a really grown-up dress. She there- fore decided to forget her former feelings about the Moffats, and promised to do as Belle wished.

B. That evening Belle and the French servant. Hortense, shut themselfes in Meg's rooom and set to work on her. They powdered her .They opwdered her face. neck and arms; they waved her hair. Then they put on the blue dress which was so small in places that it hurt her, and was so low at the neck that she felt undressed. Then they put on Jewellery and ear-rings,She had high blue shoes and she carriedher flowers in a silver holder.

Belle and Hortense were delighted. "Com e and show yourself," they said. "I feel both over- dressed a nd undressed," said Meg.

She did indeed look very pretty, but her dress was not right for so young a girl, and many people at the party asked who she was. Just as she was talking with a group of young men she saw Laurie. He bowed to her But looked so surprised that she wished she had worn her old white dress.

"I'm glad you came," she said.

"Jo wanted me to come, to tell her how you looked"

"What will you tell her?" " I shall say that I did not know you : you looked so grown- up and unlike youself."

"The girls dress ed me up for fun. Don't you like my dress? "I do not," said Laurie. "Why not?" "I do not like that sort of dress, and I don't think it is right for you." "You are the unkindest boy I drer Know," said Meg, and turned away, only to heer one of theolder men say. "They are making a fool of that littile girl. She looked so sweet last night, but now they have made her a painted doll." "Oh "thought Meg. "I wish I'd been wiser and worn my own dress, even if if if is old."

Laurie came back and asked her to dance. "I don't like your dress,"Meg smiled and stood up with him.

"Take care uou don't fall over my long dress-- I know I was silly to wear it." They had often danced together at home, and in the pleaure of the dance they forgot their little quarrel.

They hath danced well and were very happy. "Promise me that you won't tell them at home about my dress. I twould trouble mother." Laurie promised. Just then Ned Moffqt came to ask Megg to dance. Laurie wached them, andn after the dance he was surprised to see Meg drink several glasses of wine. He went across and said to her, "Don't drink much of that, Meg."

"I'm not Meg tonight," she said with a laugh. "I'm a different gil in this dress." When the next dance came, the wine had" gone to her head" and she danced faster and faster, Later, she was talking and laughing reater loud with a group of young men . Laurie was very unhappy about her, but he had no chance of speaking to heragain before the party ended and the had to go home

E. The next morning Meg had such a bad head that she stayed in bed, and on the following day, when her visit ended, she was rather glad to go home. After the journey back, she sat with h her mother and Jo in the evening, looki;g round at the little room. "Home is a nice pla ce," she said, and it is so pleasant to be quiet. "I 'm glad to hear you say so.I thought you might not think so."said her motherwho had a feeling, as she lidtenedd to Meg's story, that something was trobling her daughter.

"Mot er, there is something else which I must tell you," said Meg. "Shall I go?" asked Jo. "Of course not,"said Meg. "You know that I tell you everything."

t en Ned Moffat came to ask Meg to dance.Laurie watched them, and after the dance he was surprised to see Meg drink several glasses of wine. He went across and said to her."Don't drink much of that, Meg." I'm not Meg tonight."she said with a luugh. I'm a differnt girl in this dress." When the next dance came, the wine had"gone to her head" and she danced faster and faster, La ter, she was talking and laughing rather loud with a group of young men.

Laurie was very unhappy about her, but he had no chance of speaking to heragain before the party ended and he had to go hom e.

NINE

"ALL PLAY AND NO WORK"

A. After Meg renurned, the four girls began to enjoy the spring, they went forlong walks, gathering wild flowers; they worked in the garden, where each had a part to herself, planting it with whatever flowers she liked .They went in a boat on the river with Laurie; in fact Laurie took part in most of tho things which they did. On rainy days they wrote for littleweekly newsp-

aper, put together by Jo which Meg read alud to them in Jo's top room every Saturday night. After a time, Laurie was allowed to write for this newspaper , and to be present at the Saturday night readings. It because of this that he thought of making the old bird-house into a post-office.It was near the wall separating the gardens and could be used by both families. They "posted"all sorts of things to each other-- poems and garden- seeds, musicletters and cakes.Even old Mr. Laurence Joined in the fun and sent unexpected presents, while his gardener, who was very friendly ith old Hannah sent her a lovo letter. How they all laughed Beht was the postman for the March family and they all enjoed the fun of having their own post- office. Soon the spring ended and it waw summer.One warm day in June, Meg came back from her work and called to the others:

"The King children are going away to orrow for three months at the sea. So I am free I have no work for three months/ How I have no work for three months/ How I shall enjoy it! "/

She found Jo equally happy; but very tired after preparing her aunt's clothes and seeing her off for a long stay in the country

"What will you do with your free time? asked Amy/

"I sha ll stay in bed lare in the mornings." teplied Meg; "and then get up and do nothing _ nothing but rest all day"/

"I wo_ld not like that; said J o/ "I have brought back plenty of books; and I shall read; and readthat is; when I'm not having fu n;" "Don't let us do any lessons. Beth;" said Amy "If Meg and Jo do nothing but play and rest; we ought to do the same."

"Well; I will; if Mother doesn't mind. I want to learn some new music and I must make some summer clothes for my dolls."

"M ay we all be really frr ; Mother." asked Meg;

" an d just do nothing but what we like?"
"and just day try your plan for a week, and see how you like it. I think that, by the end of the week, you will be very tired of all play and no work."

"Oh no" said Meg. "I shall love it"

The next morning Meg. " Ieame dow. late to breakfast. She did not enjoy eating it alone, and the room was dirty because Beth had not clean d it. May had left her books lying about Jo had not changed the flowers. Only her mother's corner of the room looked as usal.

Meg sat dreaming of the preatty dresses she would like to buy. Jo had gone out after breakfast to spend the morning on the river with Laurie. Beth left the breakfast things for H- Hannah to wash and went to look for something from which to make dolls cothes. When she was tired of this she left all th things on the floor and went to her paino.

Amy put on her best white dress and sat in the garden. When she got tired of doing nothing she went for a walk and was caught in the rain, which spoilt her dress.

In the enenign the girls told their mother how much they had enjoyed the day, but Mrs. March did not think that they looked very happy. All that week their work was done by Hannah and Mrs. March, and so the house was well looked after , while Meg sat trying to make her clothes look like Annie Moffat's, and Jo read until her eyes were tired and she quarrelled with everyone event with Laurie.

Amy was the most unhappy. Because she found that without Meg and to help her, she had nothing to do ecxcept draw, and she soon grew tired of that.

Beth sometimes forgot that she was supposed to be lazy and then went on with some of her usual work, but even she was less peaceful and happy than usal.

B . On the last day of the week Mrs. March decided to give the girls a losson. When they came down in the morning there was no breakfast, and the kitchen fire ahd not been lighted. Meg went upstairs to see what was the matter.

" I am not ill," said Mrs. March. "Hannah and i are very tired, so I have given Hannah a day's rest and I shall stay quietly in at room and go out later for a walk. You will have to do without us."

Jo was pleased to have something to do. She and Meg prepared the breakfast and took some to their mother. The tea was badly made and the eggs were hard, but Mrs. Mzrch only smiled. She had taken some food up before, knowing what sort of breakfast the girls might bring, but she did not let them see that she did not eat what they had brought.

"They are going to have a hard day, but it woll do them good," she thought.

Meg was not at all pleased with the way she had cooked the breakfast so Jo offeredt to get the dinner .

Remembering her quarrel with Laurie, she thought she would ask him to dinner and make friednds again.

"You had better see what thre is before you ask any friedns," said Meg.

"Oh there's plenty of meat and green stuff, and I shall get some fish and somefruit, and make some coffee."

"Don't try too many things, do You can't really cook anything but sweets, and you had better ask Mother before you b anything.

" Of course I sahll, " said Jo, going to Mrs March's room. Her mother looked up from her book and said, " Buy what you like . I shall be going our to dinner later on."

Jo could hardly beliv it was her mother siting in a chair reading so early in the morning.

"Nothing seems ritht this morning " the said to herself. "There's Beth crying that is always a sign that there is so-ething wrong with this family."

She hurried down to find Beth crying as thou her heart woud break. Her little bird, Pip, was lying dead. His food box was empry and there was no water.

"I make him die" cried Beth. "I forgot to feed him. Oh Pip, how could I be so unkind?"

Jo picked up the little bird and found it quite dead.

"I'll nev r never have another bird," cried Beth "I'm too bad to have one."

Jo would have liked to stay with Beth, but she had so much to do that she had to leave her to the others and go bach to the kitchen to "wash up" Here she found tha t the wathar was cold, as the fire had not been lingte. It took some tin to light it, and she decided that it would be vest to go our to by the food while waiting for the water t o get hot. She bout some fish but not enouhgt for the party, and some not very good fruit. She found that she did not know much about bying food.

Meg had promised to make the bread but she sat talking to her friend. Sallie Gardiner, and forgot.

Jo opened the door. "Did you rememb r the bread?"
" Oh ! I 'll make it now" said Meg.
She make it hurriedly, so it was heavey and burnt.

C. Miss Crocker was and olg lady whom they tried to help; but no one liked her. She ar ived to dinner just after Mrs March and gone out for a walk so dinner. Th re wzre so many thing s to do ! T e meat had to be cooked and the fish; and the fruit had to be prepared, and the table had to be set ready .

At last Jo rang the bell. The dinner was nearly and hour late. Poor Jo! Evertything had gone wrong. The meat was cooked too much the fish wrong The meat was cooked too much the fiss wass cooked too little and there "aw not enough of it; and the bread was black.

aAmy laughed; Miss Crocker looked any and Meg looked hurt. Only Laurie was kind, and talked and laughed as thouhg he was enjoing his dinner.
"Well," thouhgt Jo, "The fruit will be good, because i put plenty of sugar on it and we nave cream to put on it. "

Miss Crocker tasted it first, and quickly drank some water Laurie ate his bravely without saying a word ; then Amy, who had taken rather a lot, beganto cry out. She got pt quickly and ran from the table " What is it?" adked Jo.
" You put salt instead of suaga r" said Meg, "and the cream is bad because you forgot to put it in the ice box,"

Jo's face was very red and she was nearly cring when she looked at Laurie she saw that he was trying not to laugt Quite suddenly she laughed too laughed unil the tears ran down her face. So did all the others emen m iss Croker.

Meg helped Jo to d ar the table, and to "wash pu" and clea the kitchen , while Laurie took Amy for a drive. They wrer so tired that they did not wish to do any more work that day, but as f ter were friends comming to tea they had to hurry to be ready .

W hen Mrs. Marchcam e bak she found th three girls still woring ing they wrer not able to s it down and rest unit late in the evening.

" What a very b d day! " said Jo to her mother

" Not a bit like home," put in Amy.

" Not without you" said Beth, putting her arms round her mother.

" Well girls," sa d Mrx. March, "are you pleasedwith this week and do you xant anouther week like it? "

" I don't," sid Jo.

" Nor I," sad the others.

" You think, then , that it is better to have a few duties, and to work for the others? "

" I'm tited of this wekk, said Jo. "I mean to begin work again. "

" Suppose you learn to cook" saik her mother "Ebery girl ought to learn t hat." She added, smiling, for she had m t Miss Crocker and heard about Jo's dinner.

" Mother," said Jo, "did you go away jus t to let us see how silly we were?"

" Yes, I wanted you to understand that we can only ve happy in the home when each does her part. I thought it would be a good lesson for you to see what happens when no one helps in the house, and you each do only what you like, without thinking of the others. Aren't you all tired of habing nothing to do*?"

" Yes, we are ! " said the girls.

Ten

DREAMLAND

A. One fine september day, the four sisters had walked to the shaded part of a hill not far from their house. Lauie, wh o had been very lazy that morning, found them all working under the trees. Meg was doing needlework, amy was drawing, Beth was gathering pretty-coloured seeds, and Jo was reading form a book to the others.

They were all so busy that they did not notice Laurie until he was quite near. Then he said, "May I come in, please or shall I be a trouble to you ?"

Meg looked as if she did not want him to come, but Jo said:
"Of course, you may come in. We should have asked you before, but we thouhgt you wouldn't want to join such a party of girls."
" I always like your parties, but if Meg doesn't want me, I'll go away."
"You c n stay if you do something." said Meg
"It's against the rules to be lazy here."

"I'll do anything you like if you let me stay. I'm so tired of being alone in the house."

" Then take this book and read to us," said Jo. Laurie took the book and read it aloud to the end.

Then he said:

"And now may I ask what this new plan is that hou seemed to have stared?"

" Well, " said Jo, afterour first lazy week we each decided to do a certain amount of work every day.

Mother likes us to be out of doors as much as possible, so we bring our work here and hav very happy tim . We've been pretending that we are pilgrims, and that dreamland is there over the hill."

Jo pointed and Laurie looked throuhg ta opening in the wood acros the fields on the oth r sie of the river, to the green hills in the distance which rose to meet the sky. The sun was low, and the clouds were shining in the golden lihgt, like the walls of some wonderful city.

" Wouldn't it be fun if all our dreams came true, and we could live in them? " said Jo.

" I have dream d so many that it would b e hard to say which one I' d most like to come true, "said Laurie.

" well, you ll have to d cide, " said Meg. "Now tell us whcih of your dreams you like best."

"I'll tell mine if you will all tell yours."

" Yes," said the girls, "we will . Now, Laurie, 'I would go to live in Germany, and have as much music as i wanted, and at last become a f amous musician myself. I would never trouble about money or business, but I would just live for what I like.

Th t's my dream. Now what's yours. Meg?"

B. Meg took a long time before she said slowlu, "i should like a lovel house, full of lovely things, nice food, pretty clothes plenty of money pleasant people "

" Wouldn't there be a man in your house?" said Meg, not looking at him.
" Why don't you say you'd like a good-looking, wise husband," said Jo, and some dear little children? You know that your dream house wouldn't be perfct without them."

" Well, you would have nothing but pens and paper and books in yours," replied Meg hotly.
" Of course: I should have rooms filled with bookds.and a pen whcihc would heop me to write books of my own to make me the most famous writer the world."

" My dream is just to stay safe at home with mother and Father, and hilp to take care of the family said Beth.

" No other wishes?" asked Laurie.
"Not since I had my little piano."
"I have very many wishes," said Amy. "but my favourite is to go to Rome, paint pictures, and be the greatest artist in the world."

"Oh" said Laurie. "Weall want to be rich and famous except Beth."
" I hope I shall have done something to be prouud of by then," said Laurie, "but I'm almost afraid I'm too lazy, Jo."

" Mother says you'll work when you hace some good reason to make you work."

" Does she? I hope she's right. I ouhgt to work to please Grandfather, but he wants me to go the college for fouryears, and then be a merchant and look aft r his shops. But I d on't want that sort of life I should hate it. If I go to college for four y years that ought to be enough for Grandfather. If there was anyone else to stay with him, I'd run awy at once to G rmany and my music."

" You ought to do as your grandfath r wants Laurie," said Jo. "If he se s that you work hard now and at college, I am sure he will be king to you. There willbe no one to stay with him if you go away.

That night, when beth played to his grandfather the simple music which the old man loved, Lauriee stood outside in he shadow, and listended. He said to himself, "how lonely Grandfather would be if I went awya! I'll let my dream go,and I'll stay with him while he ne ds me, for I am all he has."

Eleven
THE TELEGRAM

A. " Nowvember is the most unpleasant month in the whole year," said Meg, standking at the widow one grey afternoon, looking out at the froz en g rden.

"That's the reason I x as born in it," said Jo.

" If something very pleasant happens now, we shall all think itis a delightful month," said Beth, who took a hopeful view fiew of everyt ing, even in November.

" Yes ", said Meg "but nothing pldasant ever does happen in this family . We go along , day after day, withougt a bit of change, and and with very little fun."

"You are sad, poor dear!" cried Jo. "And I'm not surprised, for you see other girls having q lovely time, while you do nothing but work, work, from one year's end to another."

Beth , who was still looking out of the window, said, smiling, "Two pleasant things are going to happen: Mother is coming down the street, and Laurie is coming through the garden as if he had something nice to tell us. "

Mrs. March and Laurie camr in together. A few minutes later there was a ring at the front door, and Hannah cmae in with a letter.

"It's one of those masty telegrams," said Hannah, as if she was afraid that it would explode in her hand. Mrs March turned white as she took it, and when she had read it she fell back, with a cry in her chair.

Jo took up the telegram and read:

Mrs. March,

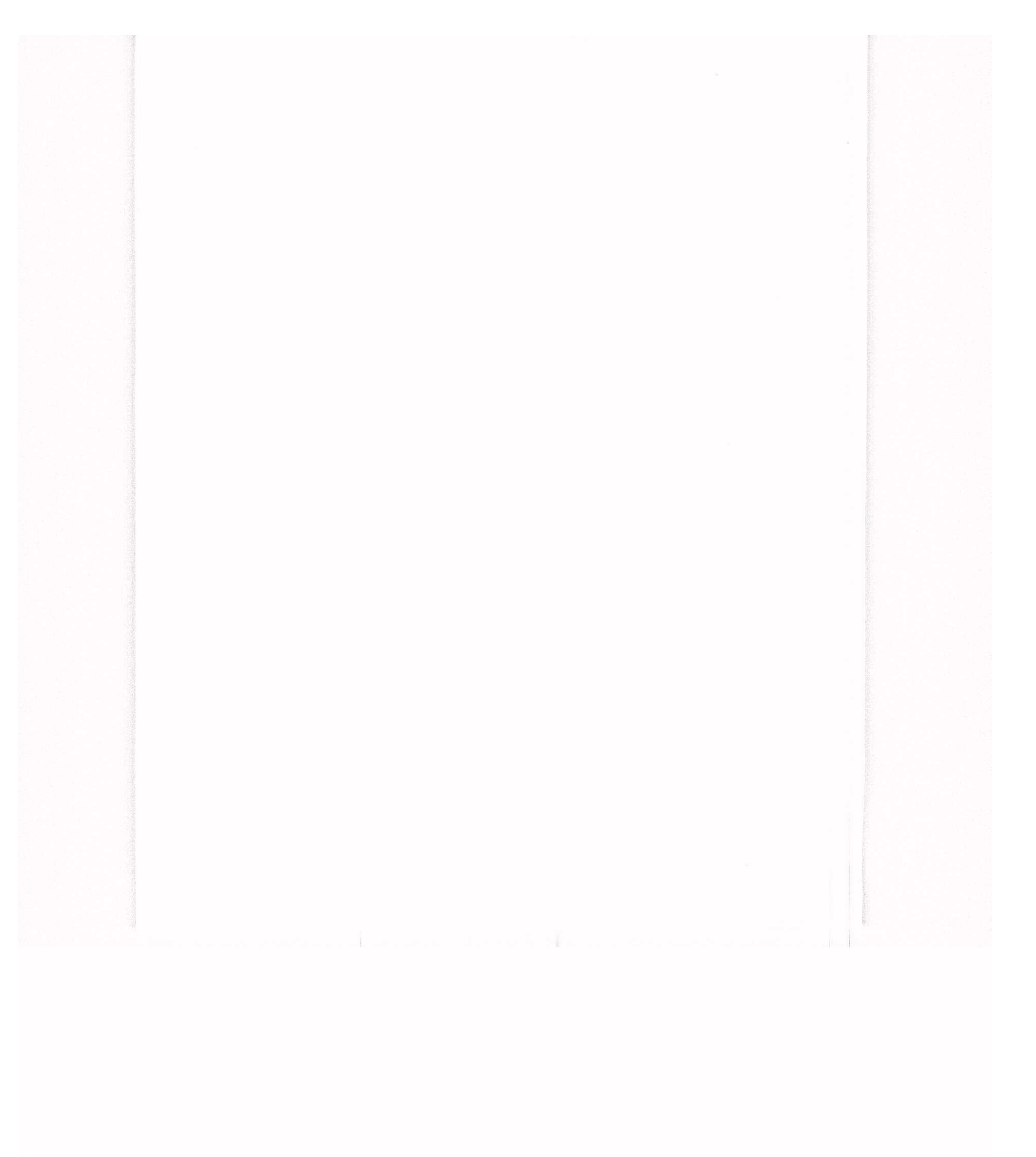
Yours husband is very ill. Come at once.

S. Hale,

Blank Hospital, Washington.

For a few minutes everyone was silent. Then Mrs. March said, "I shall go at once, but it may be too late. Oh, children, chidren, heom me to bearit!"

The girls gathered round their mother as she held out her arms to them. For a few minutes they all wept, until Hannah dried her tears and said, "I won't waste any more timein



crying. I'll go and get your things ready for your journey."

"She's right there is no time for tears now."
said Mrs. March. "Stop cring and let me think over my plans. Where is Laurie?"

" I am here," said Laurie. " What can I do to help?"
" Send a telegram to say that I will come by the morning train."
" I'll go at once," said Laurie. "Is there anything else I can do?"
" You can leave a note for Aunt March. Jo, bring me a pen adn some paper."

Jo knew that her mother was writing to Aunt March to ask for money for the journey. "How I wish," she thought, "that i had some money to give her."

"Now , Laurie," said Mrs. March, "here is the letter. You need not ride too fast as I cannot travel until tomorrow morning Jo, go and by these things whch I shall need for your father. Beth, go to Mr. Laurence and ask him for some wine I can ask anything for me now. Meg come and help me find my clothes for the journy.

For a short time they were all too busy even to cey. Then Meg asked her mother to rest for a little time while she made her some tea. As she was doing this, old Mr. Laurence cmae back with Beth.

"Beth has just told me abot your husband's ill ness; itis very sad news, "he said. "Here is the wine which you asked for and I have brought these other things which may perhaps be be useful. You may be sure that, while you are away, I shall do all that I can to help the girls. But do you fell able to

shouldtake this long journey alone? Would you allow me to come with you? "

Mrs March looked for a minute as if she would be glad for him to come, for she was rather afraid of the long journey alone but she soon decided that sehe could not allow the old man to go so far. She told him so, with the warmest thanks for his offer. He walked away saying that he would be vack soon.

B . Meg was bringing a cup of tea to her mother when she was surprised to meet Mr. Brooke.
"I have heard the sad news of uour father's ill ness Miss March he said in a kind and quiet voice, whcih sounded very pleasant to Meg. "I am going to washington f or Mr. Laurence, he went on, to buy some things whcih he needs there and I have come to ask if Mrs. March will allow me to go with her. I shall be so glad if I can give her any help."

" How kind you are!" said Meg"Mother willbe very pleased, I am sure and we shall all be glad to know that she has someone to take care of her,"

Meg spoke as if in a dream, and, she forgot herself entirely until something in the brown eyes looking down at her made her remember the cooling tea, and lead the way into the sitting-room, saying that she would call her mother.

Everything was arranged by the time that Laurie came back with a letter from Aunt March. Iy vas not a very king letter, but it enclosed the mlney for Mrs. March's journey. Jo had not yet come back, qnd they wre all beginning to wonder what had happened to her. At last she walked in, put twentyfive dollars into her mohter's handed and said, "This money is for Father to keep him in his illness and to bring him home."

"My dear, where did you getit?" adked Mrs. March. "I hope you haven't done anything foolish or wrong.

"No, I didn't stealit," said Jo, in a rather troubled voice. I only sold what was my oan." As she spoke she took off her hat, and they all cried out when they sa w that her hair was cut short.

" You hair! Your beautiful hair! "

" Oh, Jo, how could you?" cried Mrs. March. She seemed unable to say anymore, but she looked at Jo in a way which made Jo feel that what she had done had been worth doing.

That nihgt, when they were all in bed, Amy and Beth were soon asleep. Meg thought that Jo was also asleep, until she heard a sound of quiet weeping. "Jo da , what are you cring about?" she asked. " My my hair!" said poor Jo, she said bravely. " I'd do it again tomorrow if I could. "

Twelve

ILLNESS

A, Breakfast was very early next morning. It seed strange to the girls to be up at that early hour.

" Children, I leave you to Hannah's care and cear Mr. Laurence will, I knox, be a good friend to you. Go on with your work and don't lose hope. Work is always heilp in time of trouble. "

" Yes, Mother."

"Meg, dear, look after your sisters. In any difficulty , ask Ha nnah or Mr. Laurence. Jo, write to me often, and be my

brave girl, always ready to help. Beth, your music will help you, and you have your little home duties; and Amy, I know that you will be good and try to help the others all you can.
"We will, mother! We will!"

They heard the carriage coming; but although their hearts were very heavy they did not cry. They sent lowing words to their father, knowing that he might never hear them. They kissed their mother quietly, and tried to wave their hands happily as she drove away.

At that minute the sun came out, and looking back, Mrs. March saw it shining on the girls who were standing at the gate with old Mr. Laurence, the good Hannah and the friedly Laurie.

"How kind everyone is to us, she said, turning to Mr. Brooke who was sitting besice her in the to Mr. Brooke who was sitting beside her in the carriage.

" Of course they are," he said, "because they all love you." Mrs March felt that the kindness of the young man would be a great help to her on her long journey.

When the carriage was out of sight, the girls cme inside the house and they began to cry. Hannah wisely left them alone for a time. Then she cme in with a coffe pot, saying:

" Now , my dears, remmeber what your mother said, and don't cry any more . Come and have a cup of coffee, and then we'll work, as we promised your mother we would."

They sat round the table drinking the coffee and Jo said, "Hope and keep busy that's what we must do. Let's see who can remember it best. I dhall go to Aunt March as Usual."

"I shall go to teach the King children," said Meg wishing that she hadn't made her eyes so red. "But I'd much rather stay at home and attend to things here."

" No need of that, " said Amy . " Beth and I can keep house perfectly well. Hannah will tell us what to do, and we'll have everything nice when you come home."

This made the gils laugh and they all felt better forit.

Afew days later a letter cam from their mother which made them all very happy. Although their father was still ill, he il l, he was gett ug better. After that, Mr. Brooke wrote every day, and his letters became more and more hopful as the week passed. Meg as the head of the family, read these letters to the girls ; and soon they were all wrinting letters to their father and mother and to Mr. Brookde.

For a week the amount of goodness in the of house would havr been enough to supply all the neighbours. But, when they knew that ttheir father was getting better, the girls did not ty quite so hard to be good, and little by little they fell back into the old ways.

Jo caught a bad cold because the forgot to keep her head covered up warmly after her hari was cut. Aunt March tøld her to stay at home until she was better, because she did not like to hear a person read with a cold in her head. Jo liked this and was glad to spedn the time sitting by the fire and reading all the books the could find. Meg went every morning to teach the little King girls, but she spent most of her time at home in reading, again and agian, theletters sent by Mr. Brooke, and in writing to him and her mother, my forgot much of the

housework which she had promised to do, and she ast drawing when she ought to have bzen helping Hannah.

B . Only Beth kept on working. She did many of the things her sisters forgot, and she tried to be a help to everyone. One day she said to Meg: "I wish you would go and see the Hummels. You know that mother told us not to forget them."

"I m too tired togo this afternoon, replied meg who was resting in a chair by the fire.

"Can'tyou go, Jo?" asked Beth .

"It is too stormy for me with my cold."

" I thought it was alspst well."

" It's well enough for me to go out with Laurie, but not well enough to go to the Hummels," said Jo, Laughing.

" Why don't you go yourself?" asked meg.

"I have been o them every day," said Beth, "Butthe bady is ill, and I don't know what to do for it.

Mrs. Hummel goes away to work, and Lottchen takes care of it; but it gts worse and worde, and I think you or Hannah ought to o."

" I'll go tomorrow," said meg.

"I would go tlday," said Uo, "but I want ot finsih my writing. Whu don't you ask Hannag for something nicb, Beth, and tzke it round? The air will do you good."

" I am very tired," said Beth. "I did hope that one of you would go."

" Amy will be in soon and she will go or us."

" while I'll rest a little and wait for her"
So Beth sat in a big chair to rest, the others returned to their work and the Hummels were forgotten.

About an hour later , when Hannah was sleeping by the kitchen fire, Beth quietly filled a basket with good thing for the pporr children. Then she put on her coat and hat and went out into the cold air, with a heavy head and a sad look in her eyes. It was late when she came back, and no one saw her go quitly upstairs and shut herself in her mother's room. Jo found her there half an hour latre, siting on the bed and looking very ill.

" What's the matter?" Jo cried; but Beth put out a hand ad if to stop her sister form coming near.
" You've had scarlet fever, Jo, haven't you?" she asked.
"Yes; years ago, when Meg did. Why?"
" I'll tell you," said Beth; and then, begining to cry she went on "Of Jo the bady's dead?"
"What bafy?"
"Mrs. Hummel's ; it died in my arms before she got home."
"Oh! My poor dear I ought to have gone,"
said Jo, taking her sister in her ans as she ast down in her mother's big chair. "What did you do when the baby died?"
"I just sat and held if sofitly till Mrs. Hummel came back with the dovtor. He said it was dead, and then he looked at the tow other children , and said that they had scarlet fever, and he told Mrs. Hummel that she ought to have called him before.

But she said, I'm so poor, and I tried to cure the baby myself, but now it's too Late, and it's and it's only with the help of others, Doctor, that I shall be able to pay you, Then he smiled and was very kind. , and he looked at me and he gave me some stuff which I must drink so that I may not get the feve r.
"No you wonBt get it" cried Jo, holding her close. "Oh Beth, if you are ill I shall never forgive myself."

"Don't be afraid .Idon't think I shall have it badly,I've taken the stuff, and I feel better, said Beth, trying to look as well as she could. "If only mother were at home" said Jo I 11 call Hannah.She knows ab ut illness." "Don't let Amy com she has not had it, and I should hate to give it to her, are you ssure that you and Meg can't have it again?"
"I donBt think so, but Idon't care if I do," said Jo, "Because I allowed you to go to the Hunnels in that way, when I was doing my writing at home .
C. When Hannah came she a t once made them both feel happier. "Everyone has scarlet fever." she said, and no one dies of it if they are treated properly ."Jo believed her and she wentup to call Meg . When they were together again, Hannah sais ,Now I'll tell you what we'll do. We will have Dr. Bangs, just to look at you ,dear, and to see that we start right . Then Wll send Amy off to Aunt March foratt me, so that she may not catch the fever and one of you girls can stay a t home and help for a few days."

"I shall stay, because I 'm the oldest," said Meg . "I shall, because if I had done my dury qnd gone to see the Hu--mmels, Beth would not be ill, said Jo. Which will you have, Beth? asked Hannah. "We don't need more than one." "Jo, please, said Beth. This settled the point, and Meg, feeling a littla

hurt, said, "I'll go and tell Amy." When Amy heard that she was to be sent to Aunt March she was angry. "I don't like Aunt March ," she said, and I don't wish to be sent off if I am in the way." "It's only to keep you well," said Hannah. You don't want to have the fever, do you? "

"No, I don't , but I expect I shall have it, for I'veb been with Beth all the time." Just then Laurrie came in, and he was soon told of all that had happened. When he heard that Amy did not wish to go to Aunt March, he began to talk very kindly to her. "Now, Amy," he said, "If you will help your sisters and Hannah by going to Aun March like a good little girl, I will come to see you tyou every day and I will take you out and we will have lovely times together." At last, when he had told her at some length a bout the lovely times they would have . Amykissed him and said that she would go. "Now, is there anything else I can do?" Laurie asked. "Go and get Dr. Bangs," said Meg. "We can't decide anything until he comes."
"He's a good boy ," said Jo, watching him jupm over the wall as he hurried away.

THIRTEEN

LIFE OR DEATH?

A. When Dr. Bangs came he said that Beth had scarlet fever. He thought that she would have it lightly, but when he heartthe story of the Hummels he looked serious. He said that Amy should go at once to Aunt March.

Beth soon became very ill. Dr. Bangs came to see her often, but he was a very busy man and he was glad to leave Beth inthe King children because it was thought that she might take the fever to them. She stayed at home and did housework. When she

wrote to Mrs. March she felt that she ought to tell her mother about Beth's illness, but Hannah said, "No, my dear, don't say anything about it , beth isn't so very bad, and it would be wrong to trouble your mother while your father is so ill.

Mrs. March wrote from Washington that Mr. March was not so well, and that he would not be coming hopme for a long time. Beth grew worse, and Jo, who attended to her by day and night, was very troubled when she fround that Bet h did not know her, and that she called the others by wrong nam es, and often cried ouf for her mother. One morning, when Dr. Bangscame he looked at Beth for a long time, held one of her hot hands in both hisown, and then said to Hannah : "I f Mrs. March can leaveher husband, I think she should co e," Jo, who was standing near, turned whire. "I'll send a a telegram at once." shesaid . She hurried off and was soon back again, While she was t king off her coat, Laurie came in with a letter saying that Mr. March xas better. Jo read it thnkfully, bit tje heavy weight did not seem lifted from her heart and she looked so unhappu that L. asked quickly"What is it? It Beth worse ?" I've sent for Mother said Jo, with a sad look as she tridd to get off her heavy shoes. "I'm so glad, " said Laurie. He put her in a chair and pulled off her shoes for her and then asked, "Did you d it yourself, without asking anybody?" "No, the doctor told us to." "Oh , Jo, it's not so bad as that, is it?" cried Laurie.

"Yes, it is, she doesn't know us ; she does't look like my beth-- and there's nobody to help us bea rit ?"
B. As the tears stream ed fast down poor Jo's face, she put out her hand in a helpless sort of way as il feeling in the dark. Laurie took it in his, saying as he did so--- I'm here

Jo; hold on to me, dear!" she could not speak, but she did hold on and holding the friendly hand seemed to help her.

At last she sqid, You are a food doctor, Laurie, and such a good friend ."

"I think that tonight I shall bring younsomething that will do you even more good." said Laurie .

" What is it?" cried Jo, forgeting her sadness for a minute in her wonder.

" I sent a telegam to your mother yesterday, and Brooke answered that she would come at once. She will be here tonight Aren't you gald I did it?"

" Laurie, you're a dear! How shall I ever thank you? But what made you think of it?"

"Well you see I got rather troubled, and so did Grandfather. We thought that Hannag was wrong in saying that your mother must not be told about Beth and we didn't like what we heard about wr sent a telegam; and your mother is coming by the train which gets here at two O'clock. I shall go and bring her to you. "

" Oh, Laurie, I'm so happy!" said Jo as he wentaway.

Jo then went to tell Hannah and Meg the good news that Mr. March was bettar, and that Mrs. Marhc was comming home.

Dr. Bangs came, and after looking for some muinutesat Beth he said:

"She is very near the time when there will be a quick change either for better or worse. I will come again lateer." The girls never forgot that night . They had no shllp , for

for they kept watch in Beth's room, with the sad feelongof being powerles which comes to us in hours like these.

Midnigit came. The, anohter hour went by and nothing happened except that they heard Lauried starting for the station.

I t was pat two O'clock. Jo was standing at the window listening for the sound of the carriage ; then she hears a movement b the bed, and, turning quickly, saw Meg kneddlong by the beside with her face hidden. She thought, "Beth is d ad, and Meg is agraid to tell me."

She went to the bed and saw that the look of pain on the lovely ace of her liitle sister was gone. Beth looked as if she was at peace, and Jo sia, "Goodbye dzar, dear Beth good bye!"

This waked Hannah, who had been taking a little rest. She came to the bed, looked at Beth, felt her hands, and tthen cried, "T e fever has turend ; she's sleeping easily, and naw she ill soon be better. Oh, how wonderful it is!"

Before the gils could belive that it q as true, the devtor came. He was rather an ugly man, b t they thougt his face was quite beautijul when be said with a fatherly look at them, "Yes my dears, I think the little girl will get better this time. Keep the house quitet; let her sleep, and when she wakes, give her"

What they were to give they never heard, for they both w nt out into the dark hall and, holding rach other clos e, wept tears of joy.

"If only Mother would come now!" said Jo.

"Listen!" cried Meg. "I think I hear the sound of the carraidge."

The sounds cam nearer. Then there was a ring at the door Hannah opened it, and they heard a call from Laurie, "Girls, come! She's come!"

FOURTEEEN

THE MOTHER'S RETURN

Beth woke form a long sleep to find her motherlooking down upon her. She was too weak to wonder at anything, but she returned the loving kiss which her mother gave hern and then without speaking soon went to sleep again. While Mrs. March sat at the bedise, holding Bets's hand, she told the others all her news.

Evening came. Meg was in the dining room writing to her father to tell him of her mother's safe arrival. Jo went quitely to Beth's room where she found her mother in her usual place. Jo walked about htc room, looking undecied and not very happy.

" What is the matter dear?" asked Mrs March.

"I want to tell you something, Mother,"

aAbout Meg?"

" How did you know? Yes, it's about her. It's a little thing but it troubles me."

" Beth is asleep; speak low and tell me," said Mrs. March.

Jo settled herself on the floor at her mother's feet. "Last summer," she said, " Meg left a pair of gloves in the

Laur-nces' house ; and only one was returnce. Laurie said to me: 'Mr. brooke has got it. He keeps it with his own gloves. Once he dropped it and I mad fun about it. Then Mr. brooke said that he liked Meg but dar not tell her because she was so yount and he is so poor."

Jo looked up into her mother's face: Now, aren't you sorry to hear this?"

" Do you think Meg cares for him?" asked Mr. March.

"I don't know anything about love nand all that foolishnzss, cried Jo. " In stories, girls show it by getting red in the face and groung thin and acting follishly. Meg does not do that: she eats a nd drinks and sleeps like anyone else, b ut she gets a little red when Laurie makrs fun about lovers."

" Then do you think that meg does not ca e about John?"

"Who?" cried Jo.

"Mr. Brooke. We began to call him Jhon in washington, and he likes it ."

" Oh! I know you'll take his part!" said Jo, who felt that this tlk was not going to end as she wished it.

" He has been quite open about it. He told us that he loves Meg, but he w nts tobe able to give her a good o z before he asks her to marry him. And I would not allow Meg to promise to marry any ne while she is so young."

"Of course not!" said Jo. "I knew htere was trouble coming! I could marry Meg myself Mrs. March smiled. Then she said, "Jo, I don't want you to say anthing to Meg . When John comes back and I see then together I shall be able to see whzther fellingw are."

"I s it a l now," said Jo. "They'll go abot th house like lovers, and we salll have to get out of theur was, annd she willbe of no use to me any more. Oh, dear! Whey aren't we l all bys? Then there wouldn't be any trouble."

Jo looked up and saw the look of sadness in her mother's face. "You don't like like it, it, Mother . I'm so glad! let's send him away , and we'll alll be happy together again."

"I ought not to fe sad, Jo It is quite rutght that you should all gave homes of your own. But it must be some years before John can make a home for her. I hope that things will go well for her."

"Don't you wish that she would marry a rich man?" asked Jo. "I had planned to have her marry Laurie, and to have plenty of money all her life. Wouldn't that be nice? He's rich and kind and good, and he loves us all."

"Don't make plans for other people, Jo. Time and their own hearts will make your firnds' marriages. Making such plans may spoil your friendships."

"Well I xon't . But I hate to see things going wrong when a pull here and a cut htere would str ighten them out. I wish threr was something one could drink to stop one growing up."

Meg came into the roop with the finished letter in her hand.

"It 's beautifully written," said Mrs. March, looking at the letter. "Please add, mother sends her love to John,"

" Do you call him John?" asked Meg, smiling.

Fift en

THAT BAD BOY

A. In the next few days Laurie discobered that Jo had a sectet. He did his best to make her tell him whot it waw. Very soon he saw that it was about Meg and Mr. Brooke, and he make up his mind to have some fun with them.

Meg herself was acting rather strangely.

"Meg is in love," said Jo to her mot er. "She doesn't eat much, s he lies awake at night , and she goes off by herself. What shall we do about it?"

"We can do not ing but wait and be kind be kind to her, to her, until father comes back to put things right," said her mother.

A little later, Jo was han ing out letters form the post-box. "Here's one for you, Meg, " she said.

The next minute th re was a cry form Meg.

½ What is it, my child?" asked her mother, wh le Jo took the letter form Meg and read it .

" It's all a mistake ," said Meg. "John Brooke didn't send this. Oh, Jo! How could you do it?"

And Meg hid her face in her hands and cried a if her heart was broken.

"Me! I've done nothing. W at is she taking about?" cried Jo, surprised.

Meg looked very angry as she gave Jo another letter: "you wrote this, and Laurie h lped you.

How could you be so unkind to us both?"

Jo and her mother read the letter:

My dearst Meg,

I can no longer wait to tell you how much I love you. I dare not tell your mother and father yet, but I think they would let us marry if they knew that you loved me too. Mr. Laurence will help me to get some well paid work, and then, my sweet girl, you will make me happy. I beg you to say nothing to send one word of hope through Laurie in.

Your loving John.

" Oh, that hav boy!" Jo began.

" Jo, are you sure that you did not help Laurie with the lztter?" asked her mother.

" Indeed n Mother , I did not help. I never saw that letter before; I should not have written such a silly letter."

" The writing is like john's sand Meg.

"Did you reply to the letter?" her mother asked.

"Yes, I did, said Meg.

"Waht did you wirite?"

"I wrote that I was too yound to do anything about his letter, or to have secrets fom youn and that he must spak to my father ."

" You hav been very wise," said Jo. "Well, Meg, what did he write after that?" .

" In this letter which Jo has just brought , he syas that he has nev er written me such a love lztter, anc that he is very sorry that my bad sister, Jo, has tried in this way to make fun of us."

Jo picked up the two letters and read them through carefully: then she said quickly:

" I don't belive John Brooke ever swa these letters. I think that Laurie wrote them both, and that he still has Meg's letter."

"Go and bring Laurie at once," said her mother to Jo. "I shall find out what he has done , and see that he does nothing of the kind again."

While Jo was gone, Mrs. March tried to f ind out what Meg's feelings were avoth John. "Do you love him enough to wait for him?" she asked.

"I am so angry that I don't want to hink about loving any man for a very long time perhaps never," replied the usually gentle Meg.

B. Meg ran out of t he room as she heard Laurie come inot the house with Jo. Mr. March looked so cerious that Laurie sawthat she knew wha he had done. She spoke to him alone for a long time. The two girls did not know what she said, but when Lauurie came out of the room he was very solemn? and they knew that he would never forget what ha d been sid to im.

" I'll never tell Brooke till my dying day," he said to Meg, "and I do hope that you will forgive me."

" I w ill ty," said Meg, "but it was a very wrong thing todo." He looked to unhappy that Meg and her mother forgave him. Only jo had nothing to say o him. W en she did not speak, he bowed to her, turned round and went home.

As soon A s he had gone, Jo wished that she had been kinder, and in a few minutes she set off for the big house to tell him so. She asked at first for his grandfater.

"Is Mr. Laurence in?" she said to the sev ant.
"Yes , miss, but I don't think he will see you."
" Why not ? Is he ill?"
"Oh, no, miss, but Mr. Laurie has made him shut angry, and I dare not go near him. Mr. Laurie had shut himself in his room and won't answer when I speak to him. Dinner is ready and they don't come to eat it!"

"I ll go and see what the trouble is," said Jo. She went to Laurie's room and spoke to him through the door. Laurie called out, "stop that, or Irll open the door and make you stop!"

Jo sopke again, and when the door opened the ran in. She saw that he was realy angry, and so she went down on her kness and said, "please forgive me. I came to be friends again."
"Oh, get up and don't be silly, " said Laurie.
"Grandfather has just shaken me, and I won't bear it. If an yone else had done it."
"I don't think anyone else will dare to do that if you look as angry as you do now. Whey did he shake you?"
" Because I wouldn't tell him why your mother sent for me. I promised her that I wouldn't tell anyone about those letter I worte. He was very angry and shook me. Then I was ngry too and I ran up to my room ."

" But he diddn't know that you had made a promise . I think you ought to go back and tell him that you wish yau had not done what gave au all pain thoug you cannot tell him what it was."

"No, I won't !"

"Now, Laurie, don't be silly. You can't stayhere in your room for ever."

"I don't mean to stay. I shall run away and see the world and enjoy myself."

"I f I were a boy," she daid. "We would run away togetther and have a wonderful time, but it wouldn't be right for a girl. I want you to make friends with your grandfather. If I get him to say he has forgiven you, will you promise not to run away?"

"Yes, but he won't do it even for you."

C. Jo went at once to the old genthemann's room. He said Comr in, in an angry voice.

"It's only Jo, sir, she said. "Ive come to bring back a book and ask for another."

He lookedd at her as if he knew that this was not her real reason for coming.

"What has that boy been doing?" he asked." Your mother sent for him, so I am sure that he has done something very wrong. What is it?"

"He did do wron." said Jo, "but we have forgiven him, and after what he has said to us we are all sure that he will not do the same thing again. We all promised not to tell what he had done."

"That won't do," said Mr. Laurence. "I wish to know whether he hax been in any way unkind to your mother. If he has been in any way unkind to your mother . If he has, I must beat him. "

"No. he has done nothing to mu mother ," said Jo.

" She does not wish anyone to know what happened. and Laurie promised her that he would not tell anyone. That is why he coufld not tell youn sir and I hope that youwill forgive him."

"Well, if that is so, I suppose I must, " said Mr. Laurence; "but he often makes me very angry, and I don't know how things will end if we go on in theis way."

"I'll tell you, sir," said Jo. "He will run away."

At this mr. Laurence lookied very troubledw.

"Bery wrll! Go and bring him down to ivver,"

said Mr. Laurece.

"But he won't come, sir. He is so angry becuade you said that you did nor beliver him when he said that he could not tell. And I think the shaking urt h fellings very much."

Mr. Laurence tried to look serius, but Jo laughed. She knew that se had won her point.

"I think if you write him aletter, saying that you now know that he promised my mother not to tell what he had done and that youwould not have shaken hi if you had known this earlier he will see how foolish he had been, and he will come down."

Mr. Laurence laughed again, and wrote the letter in such workds as one gentleman night use to another after a really serious quarrel.

Jo kissed the top of his head. She took the leeter.ran up to Laurie's room and put it under the door.

She waited while he reak it. Then he opened the door and said, "what a good fellow you are, Jo! Was grandfather very angry with you?"

"No; hardly angry at atl."

" Well I seem to have been in trouble with everyone.

Even you would not forgive me."
"Go and eat you dinner with your grandfather," said Jo.

Everyone thought that this was the end of the matter; but Meg remembered. She never spoke of John Brooke, but she thought of him often, and dreamed of him more than ever.

Sixteen

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS

A. After her mother's return, Beth got better every day. A small bed was put in the stitting room for her, and she was able to lie there during most of the day, enjoying the company of her mother and sisters and her much-loved cats.

The news from washington was good. Mr. March was getting better. John Brooke was still with him, and he wrote to say that they hoped to come home early in the New Year. So the March famiky were expecting a very happy Christmas, and with Laurie's help they made plans for having a great deal of fun.

"I am so happy," said Beth, "that if only Father was here I couldn't possibly be any happier."
"And so am I! And so am I!" said all the others.

Sometimes in this strange world, things happen just as they do in stroy bookds; and it was os with the march family on this wonderful Christmas Day.

The girls and thrir mothr were looking very happil at the Christmas presents wheih they had given to one another and those which had come to them form the Laurences next door.

While they were doing this, Laurie opened the door and quietly put in his head.

"Here's another presedent for the March family," he said in a strange voice.

Then he opended the door wider, and in his place a tall man appeared so much covered up that his face could not be seen. Behind him was another tall man, who tried to say s something but did not seem able to speak.

The first tall man uncovered his face and, with cries of delight, the girls s aw that he was thir father. It is not possible to tall of all that happened afterwards. The girls and their mother put their arms round Mr. March and kissed him. Quite by mistake, the second tall man Mr. Brooke kisded Meg. Hannaj cam from the kitchen to join in the general happiness, and to tell them that the Christmas dinner would sooon be ready.

Mrs March siad to her husband, "Before we have dinner , you and Beth must have a little rest." Shr put each of them into a big chair, but Betj did not stay long in her own chair; she joined her father in his chair, and they did not have as much rest as they ought to have done because they could not stop talking to one another.

Laurie and his grandfather and Mr. Brooke all cam e to dinn r, and it was avery happy party. After dinner hte visitors went awy, for they knew that the Ma rch family would like to b alone toghern and alos that Beth and Mr. Ma ch needed rest.

That evening the little family was gathered round the the fire in the sittingroom. Mr . March was telling them hox it happeenved th t be camr home earlier than they expectecL

"When the weather became bett r," he said, "the doctor thought that I might come and I wanted so much to surpirsey u qll , I could not hav d done it without Brooke. He has been such a help on the journey and , indeed , all through my illness, as your mother knows."

" Yes, indeed, " said Mrs. March, "he is a most kind and helpful young man,"

There was a happy, far awy look in Meg's eyes. "Such a happy Christmas," she said , "and it has been s uch a hppy year."

B. " How can you say that it was a happy year? said Jo. "The e was Father's illness, and then Beth's "I think that a lot of nice things have come to us this year," said Beth. "We ve got to know Laurie and his grandfather, and Ive played on the big piano next door, and I have a drar little piano of my own."

"And you went to the Hummels, and the baby died in your arms, and you got scarlet fever, and nearly died of it," said Jo.

"It was rather a hard road for you all to travel," said Mr. March, and the last part of it was certainly very hard; but form all that your mlther has told me I know howm well you have done, and I am proud of my little women."

Meg was sitting besede him. He took her hand in his, znd he noticed that her fingers had become hard with needlework.

"Meg, my dear, " he said,"I know how much work you have done to help your mother and sister, and I am proud of theis little hand. I jope that there will still be some time vefore Iam asked to give it away;" He smiled down upon her and pressed the hand which he wanted so much to keep near him Meg tried to look as if she did not know what her father meant , but she did not do it very well, and she knew that Jo was lookong at her rather sadly.

Beth said quietly in her fath r's ear, "say something nich about Jo. She has tried s o hard, a,d she has been so very kind to me. "

"Althohg Jo's hair is so short," said Mr. March, "S e does not seem to be so like a boy as she was when I w nt away. I don't think she wants to be a boy any more. She is more careful about her dress, and she doesn't shout about the house as boys do.

In fact she has become a nice quiet little woman! I rather miss my wild girl, but if i get in her place a strong, helpful kind hearted woman I dhall be very happy. I couldn't find anything beautjul enough to be bought with the twenty five dollars she sent me."

"And now what have hav you to sya about Beth?" asked Amy. She badly w ted to hear wha t he would say about herself, but she was willing to wait. "There is so little of her," said Mr. M arch, "That I do not know what to say. She might easily hide away so that we could not s her; b ut I do not think that she is quite so afraid of showing her self as she was;" Then he rememb red how nearly he had lost her.

He held her close, and sai with his face against hers, "Ievz got you safe, my Beth, and I mean to keep you now," He then looked down at amy, wjo was sitting at his feet. He passed his fingers through her shining hari as he spoke;
"I think that Amy is rather tired, for she has been runninng about for her mother all the afternoon. She wishes to be useful, and does not now think so much about being berti ful. That is a better way of making life beautiful, for berself and others."

They were all silent for a time. There was a dream like look on Beth"s face and Jo said to her :
"What are you thiking of, Beth?"
"I was thinking," said Beth, "of that dya when we all went up the hilln taking our work with us, and we looked at thehills beyond the river, to the sun shining behind the golden clouds. Laurie joined us, you will remember, and we all taked about our dreams for the future. Now, isn't this like one of our drzams come true?"
" I think it is," said Jo.

Seventeen
JO AND MEG

On the next day Mr. March sat in a gig chair in the sitiing room, and the girls spet much of thir time with him ; now that th that their father was home agian they felt that they could not see too much of him. They looked out a t the snow man whcich Jo and Lqurie had made, andd some of them were surprised that neither Laurie nor Mr. Brooke came in to see them. Mr. and Mrs. March often looked at Meg, as if they were thinking a

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a grea deal abotu her and the young man next door. They thought that something must happensoon. They thought that something must happen soon. This state of uncertainty was not good for the little family, and Jo could see very plainly that it was not good for Meg.

Meg did not look very happy. It was clear that one of her dreams had not het come true.
"What is the matter with us all?" she said.
"You know very well what is the matter," said Jo.
"I t is your John who is causing all this trouble."
"Don't say my john'; it isn't right and it isn't right and it isnt true," daid Megn but she spoke the words my john" as if they were not entirely unpleasant to her. I've told you I don't care much about him. We are ust friedns, and now that he is back again we were before ."
"I don't think we can, said Jo. "You are not like yourself. You seem so far away from me. I can see what has happened, and so can Mother. When it comes I can bear it like a man but I wish it was all settled; I hate waiting. I f you wi sh to do it quickly and get it over."

Meg had some needlecaork in her hand. She was looking at it carefully, and seemed to be very busy. At last she said softly, " I can't do or say anything if he does not s speak . And I don't t ink he will speak, because Father told him that I was too young to be married."

Meg looked as if she was not sure that her father was quite right on this point .

" If he does ask you if she was not sure that her father was quite ritt on thsi point. If he does ask you to marry him," said Jo, "do you know what you will say? will you tell him plainly that Father thinks you are too young, or will you go red, and begin to cy and at last fall into his arms, ust as people do in the story books?

"I m not as weak and silly as uou think, said Meg. "I know exactly what I am going to say. I have Planned it all so that I shall not be taken by surprise."

" Would you mind telling me what you will say?" asked Jo.

" Well," said Meg, "If he speak s and as I've told you, I don't think he will I shall say Than k you, Mr Brooke, it is very kind of you: but Father says that I am too young at present to think of such things, and I quite agr ee with him. So please do not say any more, b t let us be friend s, ujust as we used to be."

" I don't belive you will ever day that, " said Jo, "and if you do, I am sure that he will not beliveyou. He will do just what lovers always do in the stroy bookds and thenyou will fall into his arms, if only brcause you don't want to hurt his feelongs."

" You may learn a lot from the story books you read," said Meg but you are quite wrong about John and me. I shall say zxactly what I have told you. And then I shall stand yp, and bow to him, and walk quickly out of the room."

Meg had no sooner said this than they heard the front door open, and a voice speaking in the hall.

It was the voice of John Brooke.

Eighteen

MEG, JOHN BROOKZ AND AUNT MARCH

A. Meg and Jo both rose to their feet as the door of the sitting room opened and the young man of whom they were talking stood before them.

"Good afternoon," he said. "I come to ask about your father I do ho e that he is not too tired after the long journey?"

"He is resting," said Jo, "but I a m sure that he would like to see you. I w ill go and tell him hat you are here.

"Don't wake him if he is asleep, said john Brooke.

"I expect he is reading," said Jo, and she went away qu ckly, leabing Meg and John alone together.

"Now we shall see what will happen," she thought.

"I'm not goin to be in any hurry to tell Father that he is here. I'll give them time to have a niche talk.

We shall all feel better when we know what they are going to do."

As soon as Jo had gone, Meg also began to move towardsthe door.

"I am sure that Mother would like to see you Mr. Brooks," she said. "Please sit down, and I w ill go and call her."

John Brooke looked very hurt.

"Don't go Meg, he said ."Are you afraid of me?"

He had never called her meg before , and she w as surprised to find how sweet it was to hea him say it.

As the wished to appear friedly adn easy, she p t out her had and said:

"How can I b afraid of you when you when you ha ve been so kind to Father? I only wish I could thank you for it."

"Shall I tell you how you can tha,.. me?" asked Mr. Brooke. He was holidng her small hand in his own, and looking down at her wit so much love n his brbwn eyes that her heart beg n t beat very fast . She felt that she must run awy, but alsot she wanted very much to st y and hear what she knew that he was going to say.

"Meg, dear, he said, I ilove you so much. Do you think that you can love me a little in r urn?"

Somewhere at the back of her mind meg knew that this w as the time for her t o say to Mr. Brooke exactly what she had told Jo that she meant to say. She knew also that, after speaking those wordsn she ought to hwo to him , and walk quicky from the room. But her hand was still in his, and all that she could say was:

"Oh, please don't . I'd rather not."

She spoke so softly, and her head was so low, t at he had difficulty in he ring the foolish little reply.

" I don't wa nt to trouble you," he said, "I only wqnt to ask whether you care for me jus t a little."

"I I don't known " she said.

Strangely enough, he seeme quite pleased with this reply. He smiled at her and said:

"Will you tyry to f ind out? I want to know so much? If you think that you can love me, I shall work hard for us both; but I can't do that unless I know what the end will be."

Meg swa that he was smiling and a strange thought came inot her mind, for she rememb red some words th t Anne Mottat once said to her

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"It's best not to let young men think that they can do what they like with us, Anne said. "Make them wait a little, and then you will hav more power over them latt r on."

B. Her hand was still in his, but she pulled it away.
"I cna't tell you anyth ing," she said . "please leav me alone and go away."
"Do you really mean that?" askd John Brooke. The smile had now quite passed away form his face andhe looked ver y unhpy
"Yes, I do; I don't want to be tr ubled about such things. Father says I need not; I am too young. and I'd rather not say any more."

"May'nt I hope that , some day, you will change your mind? I'll wait, and sya not ing until you have had more ti e. Don"(play with me, Mzg. I didn't think you would do that?"

He stood looking at her so sadlyn and w thi so such love in the his brown eyes, that Megcould not help f elling that she had been unkind to him. He moved t wars the doorn and Meg followed him. He moved towars the door and Meg followed him.
Then the door opened and a new vistir appeared.

"Aumt March !"cried meg for she could not have been morr durprised if it had b en a fary or Father C hristmas.

Aunt Mach stood in the doorqwy, looking first at Meg and then at the young man. The young man was very place and the young woman was very red. It was not diifficult to ssee that the talk wheih they had been having was of unusaul in iportance t o them both.
"What's all this? " cried the old lady , strikignthe talbe with her stick.

" I can see you are surprised, " said Au t Macch, sitting down. As sh did so, Jo n Brooke went out quietly, saying something about going to see Mr. March.

"Who is he?" asked Aunt March. "Your fat r's frienf; what fried?"

"Mr. Brooke," said Meg The fried who was so kind to Father when he was ill. He went of Washington with Mother when the telegram came, and he sta yed with father all the time he was there, and btout him home on Christmas Day. I do not know wh at we should have done with ut him."

"Ah, now I remember," said Aunt March.

"Brooke young Laurence's teacher. A e ~~you in love w th him?~~"

"Don't speak so loud," cried Meg. "H ma hear. S all I go and call mother?"

"Not yet. I've something to say to you and I must say it at once. Now tell me, do you m an o marry this young man? If you don not one penny of my money will ever go to you. Remember that, and don't be a silly girl."

This was ecactly waht was needed in order to drive away the foolish thoughts wh ch had entered Meg's head when she flt that had entered Meg's head when she felt that Jo n Brokke w a too s ure of her. She no longer wished to make him unhappy. or to gain power over him, for she knew now how much she love him.

"I shall marry whom I plise, Aunt M arch, and you can leave your money to anyone you lide, " she sakd, with spirit.

Aunt March looked very angry. "You 'll be sorry, miss she said, when youve tried love in a b ry small house, and

have found that it won't it work."
I'm not afraid of b in poor cried Meg. I've been very happy so far, a d I know I dhall be happy with him, because he love me, and I"

Meg stopped there, for just then she remembered that sshe had not mak p her mind that she had told her john to go away and that perhaps he w a quite near, and wa s hearing all t hat she and her ant were saying.

There was someth g in the girl's happy face which made Aunt march fell that. although she herself was rich, she was a poor old woman ling alone.

C. "Well, I will have nothing more to do with you, " said Aunt March. "You are a very silly girl, and you havelose you think by what you have shad to me. I came to see your faht er , but I don't fzel to me. I cmar to see your father, but I don't feel that I want to see him now. I'm going home, and my las t words t o you are I've done wit you or ev r. Don't expct any help form me when you are married to your mr. Brook Let his firends take car of you. You will get nothing form me."

Aunt Mach spoke so loud that she could be h ard all over the house. She then went to her carraige whch was waiting for her in the street, and drove awayin grat anger.

When meg was left alone she did not know whether to laufh or cyr. She was not given much time in wheih to make up her mind. for the next mi,ute John Brooke camr in.
"Oh, meg," he said, I couldn't help hearing and I am so glad that I h a what u u siad to the old lady . How brave and good you were! and you do love me a little, Meg! you meant

what you said?" "I didn't know how much I loved you until Aunt March sai those things about you," Meg began. "And I wodn't go away, but I can stay stay and be happy may I, deat?"

Now here was antoher chance for Meg to speak the words which she had prepared so carefjuly the words which she told Jo that she would say to Mr.

Brooks beforz to him and qalking for the room.

But she did nothing o fhte hkind, for just as Jo expected the said Yrs, John, and then she allowed John to take her in h is arms and kiss her.

W e, Jo came down she found she found the m both siting in the smae chair, and she knew at once that all was lost.

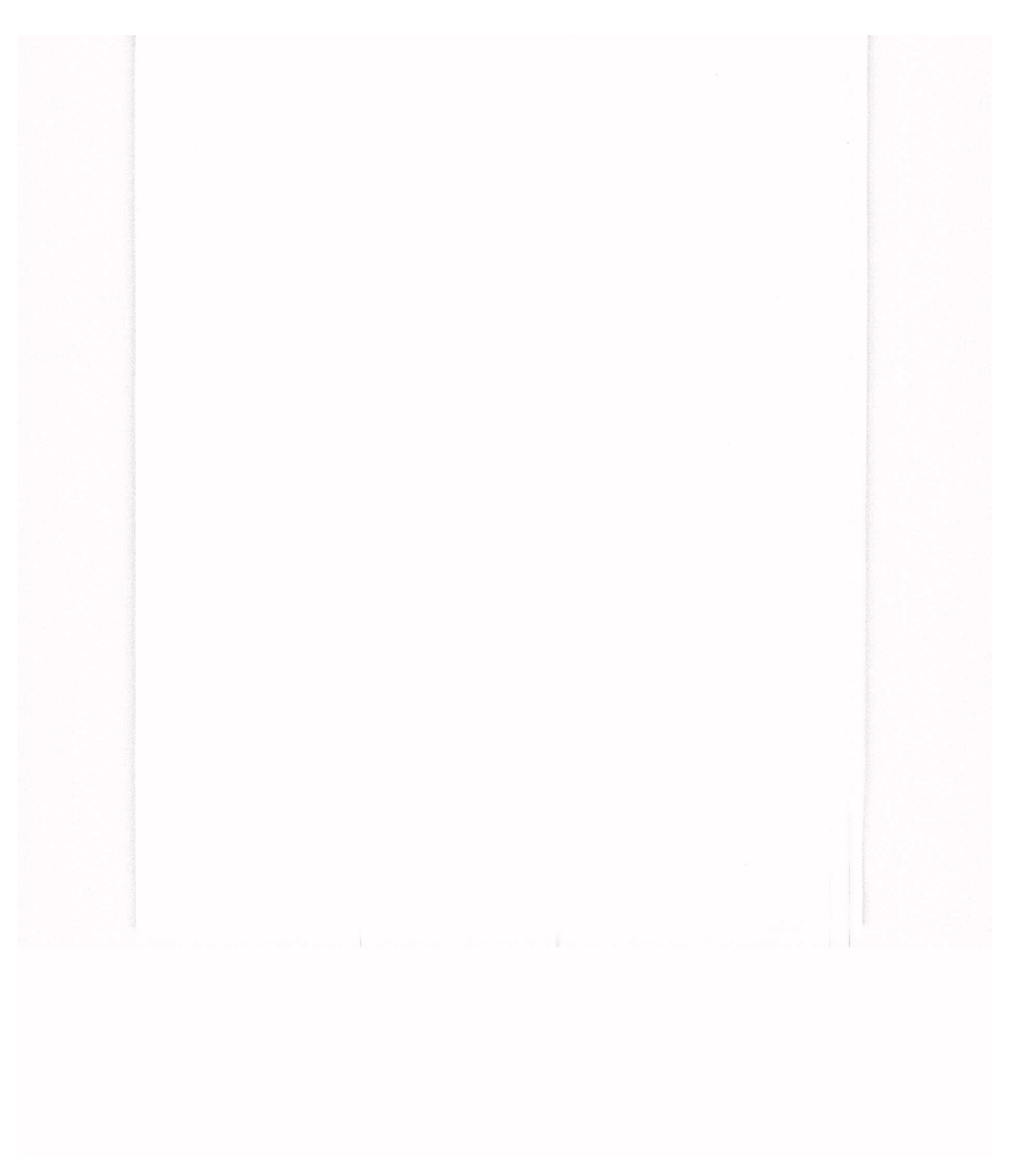
Meg jumped upn looking voth proud an happy. John Brooke laughed and kissed jo to her grat surprise. "Let us have yourgood wishes, sister jO, he saidk, Jo htrew hp her lnds and ran out of the room without saying a work.

Nineteen
THE END OF THE YEAR

A. Jo found her father still resing and her mother and the two little girls with him.

" Oh, Father please come down qick," she said, "and stop John Brooke for kissing Meg! she seems to like it and he even kissed me, and asked for my good w shes as if i had any!"

Mr. and Mrs March saw at on ce qht had happened. They smiled at one another and went down together. Jo threw herself on the bed and began to cry: but when she stopped for a minut,



and told the a d w Beth and Amy, the did not cry as she expected that they would. They seemed quite pleased for they liked John Brooke, and when they understood that he would now be their brother they thought that it was very nichr. Jo got no herlp f rm themn so she went oto her littlr room at the top of the house and told her troubles to the fricly mice.

No one ever knew what happened in the stting room t at afternoon. There was a graat deal of taking, and Mr. Brooke surprised his f reds b y the spirit with whch he told them about h s plans.

" I am going to work very hard n he dai. Iv' go some thin to work to now, and I am sure that I shall make a lovely home for my dea Meg."

Mr. and rs. March already loved hi m as a son. They knew how good he was, and they allowed him to arranged everything to work for nown and I sure that I shall make a lovely homme for my dea Meg."

Mr. and Mrs March rady loved him as a son. They knew how good he was, and they allowed him to a range everthign exactly as he wanted.

When they all went in to the eve ning meal, Meg and John look ed so happy that Jo felt that she mus t fty to lo k happy herdelf, ans hse did her best.

"You can't ssay that nothing ple sant ever happens now, can't say tha t notning p aant ever happens now, ca, you, Meg?" said Amy.

"No I'm sure I can't answered M g, wjo looked as if she waq linging in a dreamn lifted fa above such common things as bread and butter.

"How full both of unhappiness and happ ness the year has been, said Mrs, March; and how thandkful we oug t to ve that, at the end of it , we are all here, happil y togerer, and with Jhon us copany."

"I hope that the next year will ed b tter," said Jo, who found it hard to see Mrg with that dreamlic look upon her face.

"And I opt that the yeae after ant willend better still, said John Brooke. Jo smiled at Meg and added; I have make my plans and I mean that t it shall." He looked as if everying was possible for him now.

"It seems too short a time for me," said Meg. "I've so musch to learn befo e I dhall be ready."

"You have only to wait. I dhall do the work." said jOhn. B. "Hrere comes Laurie," said Jo, who had b e n looking tthough the wiand had seen L Laurie coming up the garden paht with some lovely flowers in his hand.

When he entered the room he went up to Meg, gave her the flowers and said, For Mrs, John Brooke., Then he offered his good wishes to them both.

"I k,ew that you would get what you wanted." he said, turnign to his teacher. "You always do. Whe, you make up your mind to do a thing, it's done."

"It's v ry kind of you to say so," said Joh, Brooke.

"I thank you for you good wishes and I aks uou now to cometo my wedding which I hope will be in the year after next ."

" I'll come to it even if I'm at the end of the earth," said Lurie. "We 'll both be there, won't we, JO? But what 's the matter?" he went on, more quietly.

"You don't look too happy."

"It will never be the same again. I have lost my dearst fried.
said Jo, who was almost crying.

"You've got me anyhow," Laurie answered. "I may not be muhc
good, but I'll stand b you, Jo,allthe days of my life; upon
my word I will . I shall have findhed at college before long.
and then we'll go away somewhere and see what the world islike.
Wouldn't th t please me, but we can't know what mau happen
in three years, said Jo.

"That's true. Don't you wish you could take a lo k forward,
ans see what will be hppending then?
I do!"

"I don't think I don " said Jo, for it might be something sad,
and everone lookd so haapy now; I cn't think that they will
be any happier in three years'time. And perhaps they won't
be so happy." Jo's eyes went shlround the room, looking at
the hppy faces. Her father and mother ast quitly the happy
togerh er, thinking of all that had happened to them both since
they first met, over twenty years ago. How much joy they had
had toge er! How much pain they had suffered! and now theor
four girls were gorwing up. They were good girls.

"I hve no fe rs for them," said their fahter, They willwuffer
as we have done, but a;so I think that they will be very
happy." The fahter and mother looked at the fac es of the
young people who wre gathe ed round hthe fire Meg and Jo,
Beth and Amy, Luric and Jhon Brooke.
"What will happen to them?"

Twenty

THE LITTLE HOUSE

A. More than a yyear has passed since the march family, wwiht lautie and Joh, Br. le, were gathered round the fire on a wither evenign as was told in the last chapter.

John Brooke was working very hard in a, office and saving money in the hope that v fore long he would be alble to make a home for Meg. Meg looked prettie tha, ever. Sje had spent the time in working as wil as waiting, and in learning to do many thing s wjch would be useflu to her whe she married.

Jo never went bzk to Aunt March, for the old lady had grown to like Amy while Aly was with her at the time of Beth's illnes,,and she asked Alu to spend her morning with hr. I return, she promised that Amu should have dra ing lessons in the aft rnoons form one of the b t teachers in the to n. This pl sed my very much: and it pleased Jo also, for Jo wished to giva as much of her time as possible to writing. She wrote stories for t he newspapers, and hse was v ry pleased with the d llars which shz was somet ies paid for them. Jo also spent much of her time with Beth, who had not been well sinve her illness. Altrough not really ill, beth was neveer againas ros and storn as she used to be. Yet she was lways hopejul and haapy , alwys busy with the quiet duties she was everbody's friend.

Luric went ot col ege to please his grandfath r, and he was h avinga hap, time htere. He made many friends, for he was liked by everbody, a,d he ofterbrought his frees home withhim. When theis happened, the gils of the March family were asked to meet them.

Amy was the one who most e,jyed this high honour.

She was v ry ptetty. She tought so herself, and she was glad whenthe young men allowed her to sze that they thought to too. Meg was thinking too much of her own John to th nk much of Lauri''s younng men allow her to see that they thought so too. Meg was thinkign too much of her own John to think much of Laurie's you g men. Beth had not ing to say to tem, and she oten wodred how Amy could be to brave a s to talk to them as muchas she did. Jo also takked to them, and it was clea that they all lided her very much, a s she liked them, But none of them fell in love wth her, while few escaped some loving thoug ts avout Amy. It pleased Amy when she saw that they were always r arm as when they went away form her.

Very soon john Brooke had enough money to b a house for Meg. It was a verysmall house with a little garden. Theg rden did not l od very well because it had only just b en planted with seeds, but Meg swa it as it would be when the floers were out. Most of the things in the little house were presentsfrom her family and Laurie. Beth made the cloths for dusing and washingup Jo and Amu helped their mother to prepare the housz for Meg and her hsband. Aunt March sent a large number of ver y brautful tabl - cloths and bed clothes as a wedding present, but as the had sid she would never give Meg anything she pretended that the pr sent gas sent by a fried. Evertyone laughed at the way in which she sent a present without breaking the promise whc h she had made to herself when she was angry with Meg.

B . At last everthing was ready. Meg and her mtoer went through hte hous togerh and Mrs. March sid:
"Do you like it, it meg? Does it seem like home, and do you think that you will be happy here?"

"Yes ;mother; I love it; and it, and I know how much I ought to thank you all ; but I am almost too ha ppy to talk about it." " If only she had a few servants " said Amy who had just come into the arrange the kitchen. " No , Amy," said Meg. " I don't need a servant. I mean to do the work myself, and there will only b e just inough to keep me b usy-as I wish to b e." "Sallie Moffat has four servants," said Amy. "Well, she is a rich man's wife," repliedmeg , " and she has a large house . In this house there is no room for servants; but I feel that john and I will b e very happy h re- perhaps much happier than Sallie and her husband in their large house." While she was speaking, Laurie came in, a nd a little lat er, when the others had gone, Jo and he walked home together."Perhaps," said Laurie," You will be the next to marr y." "Don't say such a thing " cried Jo . "I'm not one of that sort . Nobody will want me, and that's a good thing , for there should always be one un- married daugher in family." "You won't giv e a nyone a chance," said Laurie - and, as spoke, there was more colour than usual in his sunburnt face. " There is a side of you - at least I hope there is - which you don' t like let -- ting a fellow see.""I don't like that sort of thinf," said Jo. "I' m too busy, and I think it 's very sad that families should bebroken up in that wa y." There was a long silence between them, which lasted until they parted at the gate. Then Laurie said. "Mark my words, Jo, you will be the next to go?"

Twent y - One

GROWINGUP

A. The year which passed a fte r Meg's marriage was a very happy one for the March family. Meg often came to see her father a nd mother as she promised that she would; but towa rds the end of the

year she became the mother of two babies - a boy and a girl. These children were greatly loved by their young aunts, and especially by Beth, who spent much of her time in helping Meg to look after them. Jo worked hard at her writing, and many of herstories appeared in the newspapers. Amy learned much from the lessons which were paid for by Aunt March : she could now draw very well. Another rich aunt- Aunt Carroll- was so pleased with Amy's work that she offered to take her to Euro Europe. Mr. and Mrs. March were willing that xhe should go, and Amy looked for ward with delight to seeing the pictures painted by the world's greatest artists-for she had already decided that she would be a great artist herself. One evening soon after Amy went away with Aunt Carroll, Mrs. March and Jo were sitting together; and Mrs. March said: " Jo, I want to talk to you about Beth. I am troubled about ger.' "Why, Mother, what is the matter?" said Jo."I thought that Beth has seemed unusually well since Meg's babies came." " It is not her health that I am thinking of; it is herspirits. I am sure that something is troubling her,and Iwant you to find out what it is." " What makes you think so,Mother?" "She often sits alone. She doesn't talk to me or her father as she used todo, and the other day I found her crying over Meg,s babies. This isn't like our Beth. It troubles me." "Have you asked her about it?" "I have tried once or twice,but she looked so un-happy that I stopped." "Dear Jo, you are so strong- and such a help,"said Mrs. March. "Now, you will try to find out what is troubling Beth, won'tyou?"Jo promised, and for some days she watched Beth very carefully. B. One afternoon she and Beth were sitting to-gether. Jo was writing . Beth sat to the window with some needlework in her hands, gut her fingers didnot move, and soon the work dropped on the floor and Beth looked silently out of the window.Then someone passed below, and a voice-it wasLaurie's voice- called out,"All is well.

I'm coming in tonight" Beth smiled and waved her hand as the quick foot - steps died away. Then she said softly, as if speaking to herself,"How strong and well and happy he looks." A thought came to-"Beth is in love with Laurie. That is the reason for the unhappiness which Mother has noticed in her. And Laurie makes love to so many girls. He even makes love to me-which sometimes spoils our friendship. But I won't have it. He must love Beth, now that it is so plain that she is in love with him." Jo lay long awake that night. She was just drop-ping off to sleep when she thought that she heard Beth crying. She went to Beth's bedside and asked;"What is it, dear Beth?" "I thought you were asleep." "Is it the old pain, that you had after you were ill, that is troubling you again?" "No, it is a new one; but I can bear it," said Beth, trying to keep back her tear"Tell me about it; perhaps I may be able to help." "No one can help ;but lie down here, dear Jo. I'll be quiet, and perhaps we can go to sleep together." They were soon asleep, but Jo woke early and her thoughts moved very quickly. That morning she said to Mrs. March,"Mother, I want to go away somewhere this winter for a change." Mrs. March looked up, surprised."But why, Jo? And where will you go?" "I want something new. I feel restless, and I want to be seeing and doing and learning more than I am now. And I've got a plan. You will remember that your friend, Mrs. Kirke, who has a hotel in New York, wrote to ask if you knew anyone who would teach her children and give her some help in the house. I want to write to her and offer my services." "Are these your only reasons for wishing to go away?" said Mrs. March. "No, mother." " May I know the others?"Jo looked up and looked down and then said slowly , "Yes, Mother. I am afraid that Laurie is getting to like me too much." "Then you don't care for him?" "No, Mother . I love the dear boy , as I always have- but not in the way he wishes." asked Mrs. March."Yes would not tell me what her trouble was;but , Mother, I think I know it. I know it. I believe that she is in love with Laurie." " I had not thought that," said Mrs. March, " but it is clear that for Laurie's sake, you had better go away for a time." The matter was soon arranged. Mrs. Kirke wrote that she would be delighted to have Jo in her hotel. When Laurie was told that she was going he came to say good- bye to her."It won't do a bit of good, Jo," he said. "My eye is upon you; so mind

what youdo , or I'll come to New York and bring you home."

TWENTY-TWO

JO IN NEW YOURK

A. NEW YOURK ? NOvember, Dear Mothe and Beth and Beth,-I 'm going to write you long letters while I am here, I've a great deal to to tell, although I'm not, like Amy, a fine young lady travelling in Europe.Mrs. Kirke is so kind to me that I foll quite at home, even in this big house full of strange people, she gave me a funny ittle bed-sitting-room under the roof-all she had-but it is warm, andthere is nice table by a sunny window where I can sit and write when I am not teachig Mrs. Kirke's little girls?or helping in the hose.

I shall have my meals with the children at present and I likethis better than sitting down at the great table with all the other peo--ple in the house. My little girls are pretty children- rather spoiled, I think but I told them some stories and soon made friends with them. B. Thursday,

Yesterday was a quiet day, Ispent itin teaching my little girle kitty and Minnie- and in writting in my own room. I was in thsitting room last evening when Mr. Bhaer came in with some newssaid tohim very prettily, This is mother's friend Miss March?"

: Kitty, her little sister , added, Yes , and we like her very much, she tells us lovely stories," Mr . Bhaer and I both bowd and t en we laughed, Ah ves, Mees March, he said "I know th tyou tell thm lovely stori os, for I hear thom laugh, But sonnetimes I know that these little girls a re not good They do not work as they should- and that hurt you,Now, Mees March , when they are bad like th you must call me and I will come." he pretendes .to look very cross, like an angry schoolmaster, ad the little girls laughed with delight.

I told him that I would certainly ask for his help when I nee--eded it, and he went away.

It happened that I saw him again on the same day for, when I passed his his room, the door was open, and I saw tha t he was doing some needlework. I felt so sorry that he had no one to d this work for him but he seemed quite happy, and did not mind my seeing him. He waved his needlo at me and laughed.

"I am busy, you see,Mees March,"he said . Jo and Mr. Bhaer soon became good friends.He gave her lessons in German, and he allwoe her, in return, to do some of this needlework.It was pleasant winter and a long one for Jo did not Mrs.Kirke until June. When the time ca m e for go, the children cried, and Mr. Bhaer lookked very "Going home?" he said."Ah , m are happy you have a home to go to .

"New, sir," said Jo, don't forget that if you ever travel our way, I want you to came and see us."

"Do you? shall I come? " he asked, with a strange look on h his face which Jo did not see.

G

1. "Now, said Jo to herself as Laurie had passd out of sight, something must be done about this , and it is I who must ddo it." She went to Mr. Laurence and told him the "whole story of what had happened. The old gentleman how any girlcould help loving Laurie, but he knew, even better than Jo, that love cannot be forced, and he decided that Laurie must have a complete change in order to help him to get over his hist trouble. Laurie came home very tired. Hi s grandfather met him as if he knew nothing. They had their evening meal and afterwards they sat and talked as usual, although they both found it difficult to do so. Lauried seemed so unhappy that at last Mr. Laurence could bear it no longer. He got up, and after walking restlessly for a few minutes about the room,he truned to Laurie and said, as gently as a woman, "I know, my boy, Iknow."

There was no answer for a minute. Then Laurie asked, almost angrily: "Who told you? " "JO, herself." "then there's an end of it, said Laurie, and he looked even more uhhappy , "Not quite, " said Mr, Laurence."Iwant to say one thing, and then there shall be an end of it. You won'tcare to stay at home just now , perhaps?" "I'm not going to runa away from a girl ,Jocan't stop me from seeing her , and Ia shall stay as long a s I like,"" Not ifyou are the gentleman I think you are." said Mr. Laurence quietly.And then, with a very kind look in his eyes, the old man went on."My dear boy, I feel it almost as much as you do. I love Jo, a nd I hoped that shehwould become your wife and my granddaughter .

But the girl can't help it. I'm old deough to knowthat and I also know that the only thing for you to do now is to go away for a time. Where will you go?"
B. "Anywhere. I don't care what happens to me" Now , my boy , take it like a man. Most men go through this sort ofthing once in their lives. Why not go to Europe as you always ment to do when you left follege?" "But I didn't mean to go alone. There's someone ready and glad to go with you anywhere in the world." Who, sir?Myself, my business in London needs lookin after, I hoped that , when you had some training, you would be able to do it but I can do it better my self. Ishall want you with me in London for a short time, so that you can und--erstand the business when it becomes yours but don't think that I want to keep you there longer than is necessary. You can go to France, Germany, Swizerland, Italy--anywhere youi like, and enjoy the picrures , the music and all the things that you've always cared about."

"Well, sir, "said Laurie, "I can't say No to your kindness. I'll come."

TWENTY)FIVE

BETH'S SECRET

The letterswhich Jo had recceved in New Youk had said little about Beth's health, and nothing was said which might lead think that Beth was becoming worse. The change which was taking place from day to day was not noticed by her father and mother but when Jo came back, after being away for so long ,she saw the difference at once. She knew that Beth was very ill, and sas she had saved a little money in New Yourk , she asked her father and mother to allow her to take Beth to the seaside for

a few weeks. This gave great plesure to Mr. andMrs. March They were glad that the two sisters should go away together and they knew that Jowould take great care of Beth. they went to a quiet plece where there were not many people. The girls made few friends, for they liked to be alone together. They were drawn very close to one another by something of which,for some time, they did not speak-- the knowledge that Beth had only a short tim e to live. Jo felt quite s re that this was s , and she was glad when , one evening, Beth told her, They had been watching a beautiful sunset, and when at last the sun went down beth spoke of de th her own death, which shen knew must be q uite near. For a minute Jo was silent and heryes were dim. Then she said, I've fered it , dear Beth, and fors so e tim e I've known it, but I'm glad you've told me." "I Ive tried to tell you before," said Beth, but I couldn't. I've known it a long time. At first it was hard to bear, and was unhappy, but I'm not unhappy now, becuse I know it's best indeed it is. " "I sthis what made you so unhappy before I went away?" asked -Jo. "Yes,I gave up hoping then, but I didn't like to tell anybody." "Oh, Beth why didn't you tell me?" Perhaps it was wrong ; but I wasn't quite sure, and no one said anything, so I thought that I might be mistaken. I din't want to give trouble when so much was happenin --Meg's babies, and Amy going away, and you so happy with Laurie -- at least I thought so then." "And I thought you loved him , Beth I thought that your love fro him was making you ill, and it was for that reason that I went away." Beth looked at Jo in great surprise. "Why to how could I, when he was so much in love with

you? I do love him dearly , he is so good to me, how can I help it? But he could never be anything to me but a brother."

"Amy is left for him." said Jo." and they would do for each other very well. But I've no heart for such things now. I don't want to think about anybody but you ,Beth .You must get well." "I want to, oh, so muchI try but erey day I losea little strength, and I feel sure that I shall never get it back. It's like the sun going down, Jo, You can't stop it."

"It shall be stopped ," cried jo. "You're only nineteen and I can't let you go.I'll work and pray and fight against It." Jo, dear, it's no good, don't hope any more. Let us be happy together while we can, for Idon't have much pain. When we get home , Mother and Father wont need to be told that I shall not be with them very long ,a nd they will need all the help that you can that you can give them."

She was quite right.No words were needed when the two girls went home. Beth was tired after the short journey and she went at once to bed. When Jo came down she saw at once that her f father and mother knew the truth.There was no need for her to tell them Beth's secret.

TWENTY- SIX

A MEETINF AT NICE

A. While Beth lay dying . Amy was in Rome withaunt Carroll,and Laurie was in London with his grandfather.For sereral months Laurie worked hard in trying to learn something of t e great shipping business which one day would be his .Then he became restless. and Mr. Laurence felt that he should he should go away for a time. "Laurie."he said, when I asked you to come

I told you that I did not want to keep you here longer then was necessary , You've done well, my boy, and now it's time you had a change. Come with me as far as Paris. I shall be staying with friends ther, but they are not the sort of people you would like, and I think that you had better move on by yourself."

"As you wish, sir" said Laurie. "I have heard this morn--ing,"his grandfatherwent on that Mrs .Carroll and Amy march will soon be in Nice· They will by moving on there from Rome Now Nice is a very pleasant place to spend Christmas.Why don't you go and join them there--after you've had a little tour by yourself ? "As you wish, sir," said Laurie. "I have heard this morning , his grandfather went on.That Mrs.Carroll and Amy March will soon be in Nice. They will be moving on ther from Rome. Now nice is a very pleasant ple ce to spend Chri--stmas. Why don't you o and join them t ere-- after you've had a little tour by yourself?".

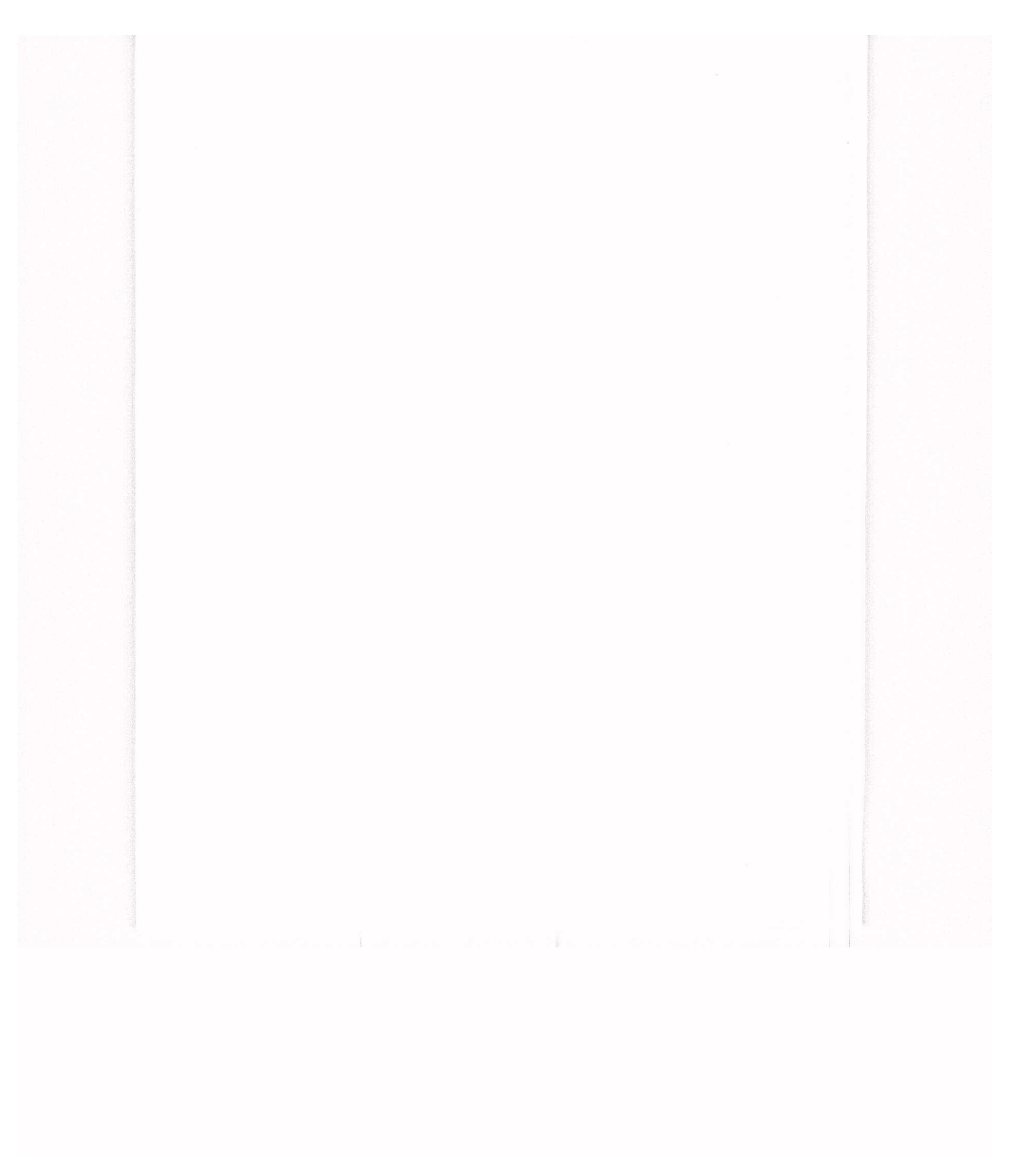
And so it happened that on the aftrnoon of Christmas Day, Laurie was walking down the En lish Road at Nice-- a wide walk, with beautiful flowers and trees on one side, and, on the oother one side the sea. Laurie was lost in his own thoughis--not very happy thoughts--when he heard a voice that he knew: "Oh, Laurie, is it really you Your grandfather told us that uou would bee here, but we thought that you would never come"I've been wndering about." said Laurie, with a rather tired and unhappy look , but I said that I would be hero for Chratmas, and here I am." "How is your grandfahter ?"Where are you staying? When did you come?" My grandfather is well, I am staying at the Chauvain, and I came last night." said Laurie, Laughing at

Amy's quick questiojs."I called at your hotel last nigh, but your aunt were both out.Now tell me, what news have you had from home?" Not very good news .Beth is ill, I am afraid she is very ill.I fell that I ought to go home, but they all say stay so I stay." "I am sure you are right," said Laurie.You could do nothing at home, and they must all be glad to know that you are enjojing youself here." They had now reached the hotel at which Amy and Mrs.Carrol were staying.

"There's a grand dance here tonith." said Amy . "Won't you come?" A cloud seemed to pass over Laurie's face. "I don't think I'll come tonightt," he said; but we must meet ana in before I go. It will be good to talk a little about home."

B. When Laurie went to Nice he meant only to stay a week, but a month later he was still there.

He was tired of being alone, and it was plesant to be in a place where there was at least one person who came from Home. And Amy , too, was glad to see him, for they could talk t together about the people and the places they both loved.Yet Amy was not hpy about Laurie .She knew that he was wasting his time, and she felt that, if he was not careful, he would waste the rest of his life. Imust talk to him about it"she thought. One day, when they were walking together along the shore,she said: "Laurie, when are you going back to your grand-father?." "Tomorrow." "You have told me that twenty times in tje last month." Well, I have felt that I shouldn't be of much use to him if I went .I hate business, and I'm sure that I shall never be any good at it.In fact I doubt, now, wheherI shallever be any good at anything. " "But you did so well at college.You need not give all your time to the business, I am sure that your grandfather doesn't want that.What has happened to your



do not tell her that Beth is worse. We are hoping against hope that when Amy comes home Beth may still be with us. Good-bye dear Laurie. Please always keep a little corner in your heart for your loving Jo." She added a little note at the end; "Please write to Amy often.She is very much alone, and your letters will do her good." "So I will, at once." said Laurie to himself . "Poor little girl, It will be a sad going home for her, I am afraid." Soon after Laurie left Nice, Mrs , Carroll and Amy travelled slowly towards Switzerland.They were at Vevay when Amy received the sad news of beth's death.Laurie also heard it in London, and he decided that he would go at once to Vevay and give Amy what help he could.Jo had written that they still did not wish her to come home earlier than had been arranged B. Laurie Knew Vevay well.When the boat touched the land he stepped out and hurreid along the shore to the hotel where Mrs.Carroll and Amy were staying, He found Amy sitting in a a pleasandtold garden by the side of the lovely lake. When she saw him she jmped up and ran to him: "Oh Laurie, Laurie I'm so glad you've come." Icouldn't help coming," he said. "I only wish that I could say somet hing that would help you to bear the loss of dear little Beth." "You needn't say anyth ing. It is so good to have you here.Aunt Carroll is very kind, but you seem like one of the family, How long can you stay?" "A s long as you want me, dear." Laurie stayed for a week, and each day he and Amy came to know one another better . On the day before Laurie was to leave, they were out on day before thel lake together.Laurie was rowing, and Amy was enjoying the beauty all around her-- the mountains, the chludles sblue s ky, the below and the boats tha looked like white- white-winnged birds.

Then her eyes met Laurie's. He had stopped rowing, ando

he was looking at her so seriously that she felt that she felt that she must speak- as if to wake him from a dream.

"You must be tired," she said. "Rest a little, and let me row, it will do me good." For a moment he seemed not to hear then, with a little start, he said : "I'm not tired; but you may row with me if you like: I must sit near you in the middle of the boat because I'm heavier than you are." She took the third of a seat which he offered to her, and they rowed together. Amy rowed well though she used both hands and Laurie used only one. The boat moved easily through the blue water. How well we pull together" said Amy. "So well that I wish we might always pull in the same boat. Will you, Amy?

For some time Amy made no reply. They went on pulling together. Then, as the boat touched the shore, Laurie asked his question again, and was answered veru softly, "Yes , Laurie.

They were very happy when they returned to the hotel.

TWENTY)(EIGHT

ALL ALONE

For some time after Beth's death, Jo was very unhappy. She missed the little sister to whom she had given so so much loving care, and with whom she had spent so many hoursof every day. She tried to fill her time by working for her mother in the house, and by helping Meg with her babies. She knew that Meg and John were very happy, and she could see that Meg was both a happier and a better woman because she was a wife and a better woman because she was a wife and mother.

"It is plain that marriage has been good for her," she thought, "I wonder whether it would be good for me; or am I

wonder whether it would be good for me or am I- as I have so often thought-- to be alone all my life? Perhaps I' ll just watch other people's lives, and put what I see into books, instead of having a real life of my own," When the news came that Amy and Laurie were to be married, Mrs, Mrs March was uncertain of the way in which Jo would take it, and she allowed Jo to see this uncertainty. "Oh ,Mother," said Jo, "did you really think that I could be so selfish and silly as to mind Lauried marrying Amy when I wouldn't marry him myslf?"

Jo found that the house- work which she was doing for her mother and for Meg was not enough to fill her writing.

She went up to the room at the top of the house where, in old days, she and Meg spent so many happy hours."How long ago that seems," she thought."We were young girls then, and now Meg is marreid and has two babies, and Beth is dead, and Amy is going to marry Laurie, and I am left alone."

She decided to look again at the stories she had written and half- written long ago."I 'm older than I was then," she thought, "and perhaps a little wiser becuse of what I've suff--ered. If I begin writing again now, I think I know some things which it will be worth while to write about ." She turned to the big box which contained all the stories that she had writtin and some old letters which she had forgotten, Among these she found a little note written to her by Mr.Bhaer on evening in New Yourk when he had promised to give her a German Lesson,but was afraid that he might be late, Wait for me, my friend," he wrote. I may be a little late, but I will surely come." "Oh , If he only would" said Jo to herself."How good and kind to me he always was and how I should love to see him, for everyone

seems tobe goingaway from me."

TWENT-NINE

A HOMECOMING

Laurie and Amy were married at an American church in Paris. Old Mr. Laurence was so pleased that his grandson was to be marr--ied to "one of the girls next door," that he wished the marriage to take place soon-- almost as mjch as the young people themselves. Mr. and Mrs. March made no difficulty for they thought it right that Amy and Laurie should be married while they were still in Europe, and spend a few weeks there befor returning to Amercia they did not wish to have a wedding ah home so soon after Beth$s death. On the day on which Mr. Laureco and the youing people were expected home, Mr. and Mrs. March wentt to the station to meet them them and Jo stayed at home to help Hannah perpare a meal Looking out of the front door, she saw Laurie hurrying up the garden path, as she had so often seen him in the old days, SHe ran to meet him. "Laurie, My dear Laurie" she cried. "Dear Jo" Jo took the hand which Laurie held out to her and they both knew that a strong and beautiful friendship had taken the place of their chidish love for one another.

Soon the small sitting- room was quite full .Amy came in first."Where is she ? where is my dear old Jo? she cried.Meg and John Brooke foolwed, each carrying one of their childre.Then came old Mr.Laurence withMr.And Mrs.March.It was a very happy family party, and no one would have thought that any of them could have been much happier by the arrival of another person. But when the meal was over, and Meg and John had taken their children

home, a strange thing happened.The front door bell rang and Jo answered it. A tall bearded gentleman stood before her in the darkness. At first Jo seemed not to know who he was, and then she cried out , Oh, Mr. Bhear, I am so glad to see you "
"And I am very glad to see Miss March, He repleed.

come in, said Jo and he was about to follow her when he heard voices. "But no, " youhave a party." "No, it isn't a party," said Jo. It's only the family . My sister and her husband and his grand father have just come here, and we are all very happy tog--other.Do come in and make one of us."

THIRTY

UNDER THE UMBRELLA

A. the business which brought Mr, Bherr from New York lasted for some weeks, and during that time he came often to see the March family, Then for nearly a week he did not come, and Jo wondered rather unhappily, what the reason coud be. One afternoon Jo said to Mrs.March:"Mother, do you want anything in the town? I have to go there to get some paper for my writing ." Mrs.March asked Jo to buy a number of things, and then she said: "If you happen to meetMr.Bher, bring him home to tea.I quite look for--ward to seeing the dear man again." "How good she is to me," Jo thought."What do girls do who haven't a mother to help thm through their troubles?" She bought the paper she wanted, and she was just going to b uy the things for her mother when she met Mr. Bher, He seemed very happy to see her."Wh t are you here, my friend?" he asked. "I am buying things forMother," she said .Just thenhe saw that it was beginning to rain."May I go also, and help cary things foryou, and will you come under my umbrella, for I see that you have none?"

Jo thanked him and they walked on togeth r , both under te same um brella. "Why have you not been to see us?" Jo asked. "We thought that you had gone." "Did you t ink that I should go without coming to see the friends who have een so kind to me"

"No, I didn't but we wondered why you didn't come."

I think you all," he said, and I will come one time moreb before I go."

B. "You are going, th en?" "Yes, I heve no longer any business here.It is done." "And as you wished, I hope?" I ought to think so, for I have found a way to get my bread and to help the two boys--my sister's sons." "Tell me, please" said Jo. I like som much to know about you-- and the boys." "That is so kind .My fiends have found a place fror me in a coolege, where I shall teach Ger--man." "That is good news," said Jo."I m so glad, for we shall hope now to see you often." "Ah, But we shall not oten, I fear, The college is far away-- in t he far west ." It is possible that if Jo and her friednd had not been walking under the same umbreella and therefore very close together-- he might not have seen the tears which she could not keep back. But he did see them. "Why do you cry?" he asked."Becuse you are going away,"

"Jo," he said, "I have not riches and I have not youth I have nothing but my love to give you." She t ook his hands in hers." Is not th at enough ?"

EXTRE WORDS

1. Christmas-- December 25th, a feast in honour of ht e birth of Christ. Dollar- a piece of money used in Amerlca.

2. Grandfather- one's or mother's father. Grandson- one's son's one's dauhter's son.

3.Aunt- a father's or mother's sister. Piano- a musical instrument

4. Skating- moving on the ice on sharp pieces of iron fixed to shoes. . College- a school for young men.

6. Granddaughter- one's son's or one's daughter's daughter. Wine- the liquid of fruit so changed that people who drik it sometimesdo silly things without knowing what the y are doing.

9. Newspaper- a paper giving news.

11. Telegram- a letter sent in signs (not by voice) an electri c wave. 12. Scalet fever- an illness in which the body becomes red and over- heated. 14. Wedding- the Church service and Meal at a marriage. 27. Rowing- moving a boat forward by means of oars- long sticks with flat hands. 3o- Umbrella- an instrument for keep- -ing offf the rain.

QUESTIONS

1.A.1.What time of year was it? 2. How many girls were there?
3. Where was their father? 4. where did they live?

B 1. Tell avout each of the sisters.

C.1. What work was Mrs March doing? 2. What had the girls done with their Chrismas presnts? /3. What was Jo called?
4. What will they buy for their mother? 5. What did they bbegin to do?

D. 1. What had Mrs March got? 2. What did Mr. March hope?

2.A. 1. Who was Hannah? 2. Where was Mrs. March when the girls came down to breakfast? 3-- Who did they only have bread and milk for breakfast?

B. 1.What did the girlsdo on Chrismas evening? 2. Who sent sup- -per forthem? 3. Why did he do that? 4. Who brought the flowers?

3.A.1. What did Meg do to get money ? 2. And what did Jo?
3. what did Amy wish to do when she grew up ?.

5. To what did Mrs. Gardiner ask the girls?

4.A.1. Why did Meg's foot hut ? 2. When did Jo find in the pppssage?

3. How old is this boy? 4. What is the matter with Jo's dress?

B.1? Why did Meg dend for Jo? 2. What did Jo do to the fron of her dress? 3. How did the girls get home from the dance?

5.A.1. When did Jo see Laurie next? 2.What did she take with hr to make him happy ? 3. What had he learned by looking through the window? 4. Who was Mr. Brooke?

B.1. Whom did Jo meet during the visit of Laurie's doctor?

2. For what did she thank him ? 3. What questions did he ask?

4. What was Jo's first though when she saw the big piano?

6.A.1. what did Mr. Laurence say about the big piano when he came to visitMrs. March? 2. What did Beth do?

B.1. For whom did Beth make a pair of shoes?

2. What did she receive in return?

7.A.1. Why did Amy feel that she was"always left alone"?

2. What did she say when Jo would not take her to the Fairy play?

B. Why did Soo do? 2 . Why did Jo ask Laurie to go skating with her? 3. Why did Amy follow her? C.1. What did Laurie call out after trying the ice? 2. Why did jo not tell Amy ?3. What happened next ? 4. What lesson had Mrs. March been learning for forty years?

8.A.1. Who were Mr. and Mrs. Moffat? 2. Where did Meg firs meet Annie Moffat ?

B. 1. Who sent Meg a bow of roses? 2. what did the othergirls think? 3. What did Meg hear Mrs. Moffat say about hermother ?.

C.1. Who was Hortense, and what did she do for Meg? 2. What did her pland for her daughters differ from those of Mrs. Moffat.

9.A.1.Wh t did the girls so on r iny days? 2.What use did they make of the old bird-bird -house ?. 3. Who sent a love -letter to Ha nah? 4. Who were the King children? 5. What was the pl n which Mrs. M rch said the girls might try for a week ?

6. Who sometimes forgot tha she was supposhed to be lary?

B.1. What did the girls find when they came down on the last day of the week? 2. Who cooked the breakfast? 3. Why was Beth crying?

4. Who promised to make the bread, and what was it like, and WhY?

C.1.What visitors came to dinner? 2. Why was the fruit not as good as Jo thought it would he? 3. What were the gils doing when thar monther came home? 4. What was the leson she hoped that they wuld learn?

1o.A. What did the girls decide to do ater their lazy week?

2. what did Laurie dream that he would like to do after he left college? B. Wh t were Meg's dre ms? 2. What was the only dream that Beth had- now that she had her little piano.

3.Who wished to be the most famous writer famous writer in the world? 4. What wasAmy's favourite wish?

11.A. What was the news th t Mrs. March received from washington?

2 . What did Laurie do to help? 3. What did old Mr. Laurence offer to do?

B.1. What did Jo sell to help her father ?

12. a .1.Who went with Mrs. March to washington? 2. What did Jo decide to d while her motherwas away? 3. And what did Meg?

4. why did Jo catch a bad cold? 5. Wh t promise did Amy forgot?

B.1. Wo were the Hummels? 2. Which of the girls went to see them?
3. Wh t did the doctor tell Mrs. Hummel? 4. What did he do for Beth?

C.1. What did Hannah say about scarler fever? 2. Why did she wish to send Amy to staywith Aunt March? 3. How did Laurie get her to go?

13.".1. What did Hannah stop Meg from doing ? 2. What did Dr. Bangs say? B. 1. What had Laurie done already? 2. Why did he do it?

14. John d somethin to tell her monter. What was it? 2. Who was John? /. What had he told Mr. and Mrs. march? 4. What did Mrs.Marh decide to do? 5. did she know that she ought not to fell said?

15.A. Who wrote Meg a letter signed "Your loving John/" ?

2. How did Meg reply to it? 3. Who received her letter and what reply did he make? 4. What did Jo say when she read the two letter which Meg had received?

B.1. What did Laurie promise that he would never do?

2. Why was Mr. Laurence angry?

C.1. Who told Mr. Laurence of Laurie's promis e to Mrs.March?

2. What did Mr. laurence do?

16.A.1. What surprise did the girls and their mother reveive on chrismass morning? 2. What did Mr. Brooke do by mistake?

B.i. What nice things did Beth say had lappened during the year?

2. What did Mr. March say about Meg's little hand?

3. Who did he say had become a nice quiet little woman"?

17.ilWhat did Jo say that she would"bear like a man"?

2. What Had Mr. March said to John Brooke about Meg?

3. What plans had Meg made?

18.A. I. What did John Brooke promise to do if Meg said that she loved him? 2. What words of Annie Moffqt did Meg remember?

3.Why did she not like the smile on John Brooke's face?

B.i. What new visitor appeared? 2. What did john Brooke then do ?

3. What wilf Aunt March do if Meg marries John Brooke?4. What is Meg not afraid of?

C. 1. "What did Meg say which John"couldn't help hearing/2. Why did Jo know that "all was lost"?
19.a. What was the sad news that Jo told to Beth and Amy? 2. How did they receive it? B.1.What did Jo tell Laurie that she had lost? 2. "What did he tell her that she still had? 3. Why did Jo not with to know what would be happening in three years'time?4.Why had **Mr.** March no fear for his little women?
20.A.1. How much time has passed since Chapter 19? ". What did Laurie do? 3. What did John Brooke buy? B.1. What did Laurei say about Jo. 3. "What did Jo answer?
21.A.1.How much time has passed since Meg's marriage? 2. What will Aunt Carroll do for Amy ? 3. What did Mrs. March ask Jo to findout? B. 1. what did Jo think about Beth?2.Where will Jo go ?why?
22.A. who is writing the letter?where from? 2. Who is Mr.Bhear ? B.1. How willl Mr. Bher help Jo? 2. What will Jo do for Mr. Bhaer? 3. What did Jo and Mr. Bhear to do?
23. 1. what did Laurie ask Jo to do ? 2. what did Laurie think about Mr. Bhear ?
24. A. 1. To whom did Jo speak about Laurie? 2. What must Laurie do now ? B. 1.Where will Laurie go with Mr. Laurence?
2. Where will he go after that?
25. 1. Where did Jo and Beth go ? 2. What did Beth tell Jo?
3. Did Mr. and Mrs. March Know this ?

26.A. 1. where did Laurie meet Amy ? 2. what did Amy ask Laurie to do? B.1. What did Laurie promise to do? 2. what must Amy promise to do ?
27.A.1.Where is Jo spending most of her time? 2. What does Jo ask Laurie to do often ? 3. Why did Laurie go to Vevay?

B.1. What did Laurie and Amy do together? 2. Amy said, "How well

3.what did Laurie ask amy to do ?
28.1.What did Jo decide to do? 2. What did Jo find in the box?

29.1.Where were Laurie and Amy married? 2.Who came after the party?

30.1. Why did Jo go to the town? 2.What did Mr.Bhaer see?

3. "I have not-(a)-and I have not-(B)-I have nothing but -(C) - to give you"

4. What did Jo say.?

(H.M.EL-A.)